



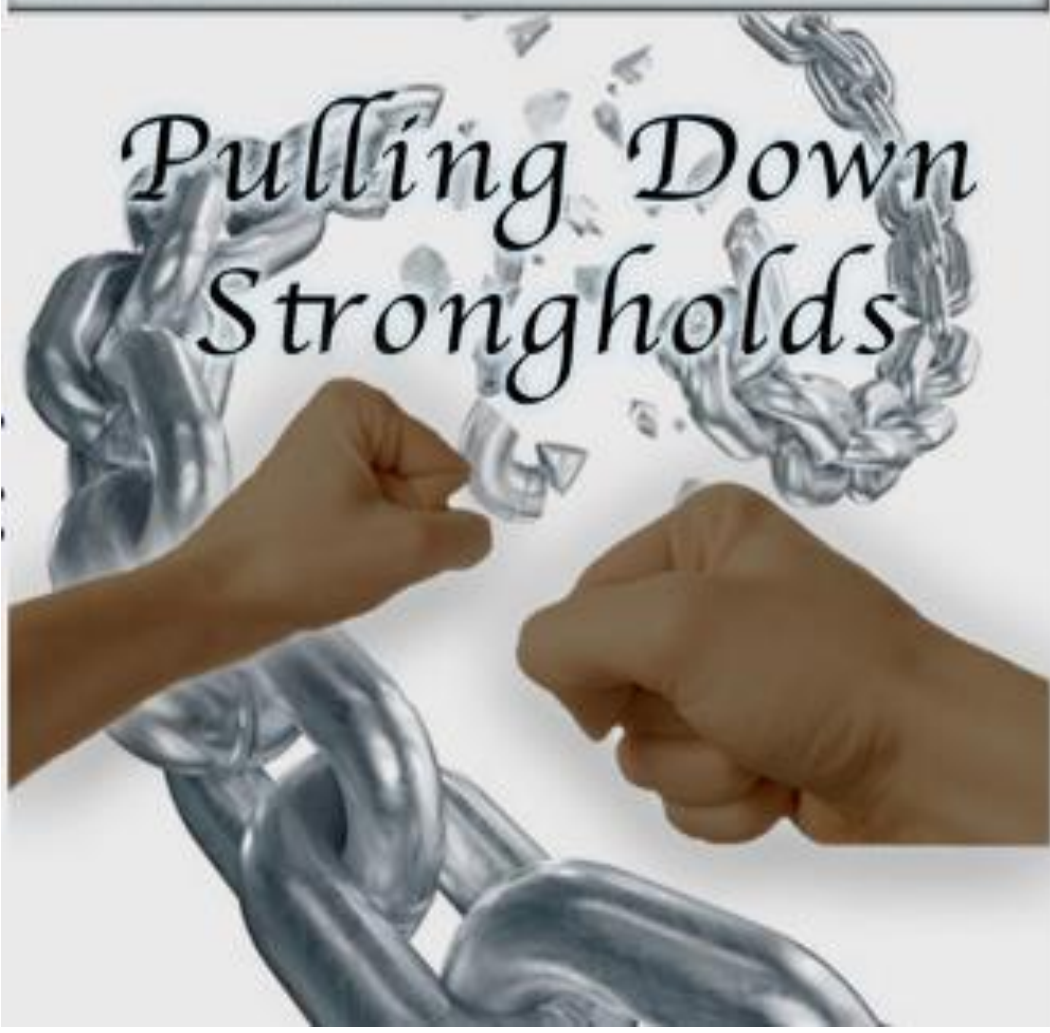
*Arthur Bailey*  
Arthur Bailey Ministries

Taking The True **Gospel Of The Kingdom** To The Whole World



ARTHUR BAILEY

# *Pulling Down Strongholds*



# **Pulling Down Strongholds**

**Arthur Bailey**

Taking The True Gospel Of The Kingdom  
To The Whole World

Arthur Bailey Ministries  
Restoring the Hebrew Roots to the  
Christian and Jewish Faiths

# **Pulling Down Strongholds**

by Arthur Bailey

Arthur Bailey Ministries

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Words in brackets [ ] are typically added for clarification by the editor and publisher.

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## **Pulling Down Strongholds**

### **Part One**

I hope you are ready because ready or not we're going to get this thing moving. I'm trusting today that some folks are going to be encouraged today. If you would, you can turn with me to the book of 2nd Corinthians. In 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 10 we are going to find some interesting words that we're going to try to clarify and help us to grasp and help us to walk in.

Make a habit of bringing your Bible with you whether you use it or not. Make sure you have it because you can open it and turn to where we're going. I believe in having the word of YeHoVaH opened when we are learning. Though I have my technology, I'm still a little old school. I like having a Bible because I can write in the margins, I can underline, I can highlight, and I can do all those things and I can take some good notes.

**2nd Corinthians, Chapter 10:1. Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Messiah, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you; 2. But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"**

Now at face value, we know that we have some words that Paul is sharing with us, that first, we should get an understanding. Now those of you who were with us when we dealt with this particular teaching: **Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts**. What we did in this teaching is we laid out the circumstances that Paul was confronted with when he was in Corinth. We're not going to recap, but it would be good, if you when you get an opportunity, to read Acts 18. Acts 18 is where Paul has his first encounter with the Corinthians; you can learn some of the things he is dealing with in this particular letter and especially in 1st Corinthians.

In 2nd Corinthians, he is still dealing with some issues. Chapter 10 opens up with some of the issues he is talking about as far as being meek and gentle, while at the same time being bold. Paul was accused by some as being a control freak. He was accused by some of wanting to control people and control the ministry. Then there were others who said Paul was a pushover, Paul was weak, that he was not even an Apostle and that he had no real authority.

Paul had to remind the Corinthians that their very existence and presence as a congregation was proof of his Apostolic Ministry and his spiritual authority. Because he fathered them, he brought the Gospel of the Kingdom to them, and through his teaching, they believed and now they were a part of the Body of Messiah.

He was being accused, in a sense, that when he was absent from them he says heavy stuff, but when he gets around them, his attitude and temperament change.

Have you ever been in a situation, Ladies and Gentlemen, where someone just irks you? You're private and you're thinking,

"Ok when I see this person, when I talk to this person, I'm going to say yada, yada, yada, and I'm going to get all of this off my chest."

Then when you get in the presence of that person, circumstances may change to where the boldness you spoke in private anticipating when you got face to face with that person is no longer there.

We do this with bosses, we do this with jobs, and we do this with husbands, and with wives. You understand what I'm saying. This is one of the things that Paul is dealing with, but we don't want to get into that as much as I want to get to what Paul is saying when he gets into

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:3 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh."**

Now, this is a mouth full because some of us don't know how to fight. Some of us don't know how to do spiritual warfare or to walk in the power and authority of the spirit of YeHoVaH. Paul is saying,

"You need to understand that though we are human carnal beings, that's not how we fight. We don't fight as human carnal fleshly people. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty, mighty through Elohim. And they are not only mighty through Him, but they have the capacity to pull down strongholds."

That's what we want to talk about today. The strongholds in our life that need to be addressed, that

need to be dealt with, and that need to be pulled down. When he is dealing with this stronghold issue, the following verses give us a clue into what he's talking about. He says,

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5“ Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Messiah,”**

Where do the imaginations occur? When we are imagining things, where is that happening in us as a person? It's happening in our minds.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5 “...and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God,”**

Where do you retain knowledge? You retain knowledge in your mind. Then he says 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5.

**“...and bringing into captivity every thought...”**

Where are your thoughts? He's saying the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through Elohim to the casting down or pulling down of strongholds.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5 “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge [And not just any knowledge] of Elohim,”**

Because James gets into this idea of knowledge and wisdom, he says there are two types of wisdom



that we encounter. There is the wisdom of this world, which is earthly, it is devilish, it is sinful, and it is carnal. Then there is the wisdom from above. So, we're either going to operate in the wisdom from above or we're going to operate from the wisdom of the world.

Let me tell you something, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are more prone to operating with worldly wisdom, human wisdom, than we are with Kingdom wisdom. It requires some serious discipline in order to operate and walk in Kingdom wisdom and in Kingdom understanding which requires each of us to have to confront ourselves. This is not about your neighbor, this is not about your spouse, this is not about your child or parent or your significant others as some would say. This is not about anyone other than you and me.

So, we're going to talk about us today because I have to deal with this myself, Ladies and Gentlemen. We're going to deal with us today.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10: "And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."**

Now there are a few ways we could take this, but Paul is not writing to the people who were accusing him. Paul is not writing to the people who were outside of the fold. Paul is not writing to the people who are saying the things that they're saying about him. He is writing to the people who have received the truth. So, let's get that understood, he is writing to Believers.

For us to deal with the unbelieving world out there the first thing that has to happen is we must deal with ourselves. You see judgment is not going to start

in the world. Judgment starts with us. You see Father must deal with us before He can deal with the world because the world can say:

"See He let those people get away with stuff, but He is judging us."

In fact, He has called you and me to be His spokesmen, to be His mouthpiece because He can't effectively judge the world if we don't do our job. That's why we're going to be judged first because we have a responsibility to the world around us. We have a responsibility to bring forth His word to the world so that when He deals with the world, they can't say they didn't know.

So, He must deal with us first, and then He is going to deal with the disobedience of the world when your obedience is fulfilled or dealt with. So, Paul is addressing the people of YAH. We're going to deal with this pulling down of strongholds.

When we come into the world, we have very little to no control of the factors that mold and shape us growing up. Some of which we inherit through birth through our DNA. You see the older I get, when I look in the mirror, the more I see my dad. I see him in the mirror looking back at me and I'm not talking about a figment of my imagination, I'm talking about my facial structure, my hairline, even demeanors when I'm standing and statements when I talk. Even in my personality, I see my dad.

Now that's scary because there's a lot of things about my dad that I didn't like. There were a lot of things about my dad that I had become, and if I didn't deal

with, I would have become the very man I had despised and loved.

Several years ago, I did a teaching on how to deal with the people we loved but can't stand. You might have some people in your life like that. I don't know about you, but I know I do. I have family members in my life and in my world that I wish they were somebody else's family members but they're mine. I can't trade them in so I'm kind of stuck with them. You know what I'm saying?

I must learn how to live with them, I must learn how to deal with them, I must learn how to relate to them without letting them pull me into a mindset that I don't like. You know you can get around certain people and I know grown folks that say that "Nobody influences them."

But see, I'm not that stupid to say something like that. I know as I look back on my life, I have been influenced by almost every person that I have allowed in my spirit, I know this for a fact.

As a matter of fact, I remember, children doing things like mocking. Or, you ever have a son or daughter, and you say something, and they repeat what you said. Sometimes that gets on your nerves, doesn't it? What they're doing is mocking, they are imitating you and they sometimes do it out loud.

What causes a child to repeat what you say especially after they find out it annoys you and yet they do it anyway? Have you ever had a child that repeats you and it annoys you to a point where you want to punish them? Has that ever happened to anybody in this room? Why would they do that? Because you

were in their spirit, they're mocking, they're imitating, and this is outwardly.

There is a lot of imitation that's taking place inwardly and these imitations don't show up until they get into their teens, upper teens, 20s, 30s. The older they get the more of that imitation of you starts to show up.

I've come to a point now where I say to a young man if you're going to marry that woman, you better get a good image of the momma because that's what you're going to end up with. You're going to end up with your wife's momma. Your wife is going to become like her momma. Your husband more than likely will become like his daddy.

I mean there is research that they have done, individuals who were separated, people who don't even know each other.

What is it about an adopted child that goes on this pursuit to find their birth parents? What is it? That's some DNA stuff at work. You can't explain it, it just happens, and you have parents who don't want to tell their children this and who don't want to tell their children that, but at some point, they know.

They know I don't imitate you. Why? Are you, my mother? They see there is something different about you and them and they can't explain it. They just know. There are things that are operating in us, Ladies and Gentlemen, on a level that is impossible for some to explain even though some would try.

Some of the things we learn are from the homes in which we were born and grew up in. Some we learn

from the environment we grow up in. Much of what we inherit comes from a variety of sources and some of the sources that we inherit come from our home, from extended parents, or extended family.

My son and my brother ... It is weird that I look at my children and I see in them some of my siblings.

Does that ever happen to you? You look at your son or your daughter and if you come from a big family, like I did, you know you'll see this son reminds me of this brother. This daughter reminds me of this sister. Has that happened to anybody other than me?

You'll find that when your children, for those of you who have children, do certain behaviors, you talk to your siblings about it. Your siblings will say something like ... one of the things that I hear when I'm talking about it,

“Oh that's a Bailey.”

What makes you say that?

“Because he's got the personality and the attributes of the Bailey clan, so you can't deny that's your boy.”

Why? Because he's a Bailey, he acts like a Bailey, he looks like a Bailey all of that. Has this ever happened to any of you all? I got to get y'all to feel me up in here because I'm talking around you right now.

You see our extended family has an impact on us. Our neighborhood and our schools have an impact on us based on things that happen to us. Our worldview, our outlook in life is formed and fortified

through circumstances and through factors of life. If you were born into poverty or a crime-ridden neighborhood there is a certain outlook. You'll find that many of the people who hoard are people who grew up in lack. Wealthy people don't hoard at least not any that I've met.

Folks who grew up with very little they're selfish or they can become selfish. They become hoarders, they want their own space, they want their own boundaries, they want their own stuff, and they don't want anybody messing with it.

If we are born in a middle-class or upper-class neighborhood, we have a certain outlook.

Over the course of life, we develop habits, and we develop patterns in our lives. Some people you can set your watch by their patterns. They do the same thing every Monday, they do the same thing every Tuesday, same thing every Wednesday. I noticed these patterns and habits in my own life, and you'll find that most of you, most of you, go one way to work and you come back home one way.

When you get up, your spouse, for those of you who are married, can say the sounds you're going to make before you make them. They kind of know the questions you're going to ask before you ask them.

Because of that pattern, because of that clock, because of that habit, when you break a pattern, it creates a signal. When a man breaks a pattern in his life, his wife is alerted because something has changed. What has caused this change is how wives can know when a man is cheating. They can feel it, they can smell it, they can sense it. How? And, they

can ask you about it and the man he lies and covers up. But when someone has been with you for a certain amount of time, you know.

Like my parents would say,

“Boy I know you lying. I know when you're lying.”

How do you know when I'm lying?

“Because your eyes go a certain way every time you tell a lie you do this ...”

You don't even see your eye doing that. As a child, you think your parents have eyes in the back of their head because my parents used to say,

“Boy, I got eyes in the back of my head.”

After a while, you know what, you start believing that they can see around corners. Parents got superpowers, they see stuff and it's like how you see that?

We develop habits and patterns and the moment you break a pattern, the moment you break a habit, it creates a signal, that causes a wave that can be felt by those who know you.

Our access to certain elements or certain elements access to us, helps to mold us and shape our outlook. Like those of us who grew up without the internet, we don't think about Google. For children who grow up with the internet, Google has become the classroom for many of them today. They have their smart devices, their internet, the speed, they have and understand this because they have become somewhat

addicted to technology and they wonder how in the world did we ever survived so long without it. Right now, I can talk to someone in real-time that is halfway around the world away from me. I can even see them on my screen when I'm talking to them. Not only that, but I can Skype on my cell phone, I can do FaceTime with someone who's in a totally-different country in real-time with only a couple of seconds' delay. That technology has changed our outlook, it's changed our world, it's changed the way we do business, it's changed the way we educate.

Things that happen or happened to us, whether it be verbal, physical, mental, sexual abuse, alcoholism that's involved in our bloodline, drug addictions, neglect, lack of parental presence, freedom to do whatever we want, over protection, divorce, abandonment, adoption, foster care, single parenting - all of this stuff has an impact on our lives, and it impacts each of us differently.

As a matter of fact, if you and your siblings grow up in the exact same house and have the exact same thing happened to you that happened to your brother or your sister, the way you respond to it may be very different than the way your brother or your sister responds to it, even though both of you grew up in the same house with the same parents and had the exact same experiences.

For instance, a person who has been sexually abused acts out promiscuously. They will go from one extreme to another. Some will withdraw.

For instance, dealing with the wife who was abused by a man in her life who doesn't know how to respond to her husband sexually because of



something that happened to her when she was little. They learn coping mechanisms, but at some point, there is this fear that the night that I will have to consummate my marriage, there is this incredible fear.

There are excuses and reasons that individuals will use to keep from having to come together with their spouse because of things that have happened. Some of the stuff they've buried, some of the stuff they've shut down. There are mental blocks that have taken place. They can go through years and years of counseling and barely ever get to the root of the issue and when they do get to the root of the issue, they don't know how to deal with it.

Then others who have been abused may find themselves in a relationship with someone of the same sex that has abused them. Like a girl who's been abused by another girl or boy who has been abused by another boy or someone who has been abused by both genders. You have individuals just like that. What makes a lesbian a lesbian, what makes a gay a gay? What makes a transgender, what makes a bisexual? What has happened in these individuals' lives that cause them to go against the natural order of things? Not only to go against the natural order of things, but develop such a hardness of heart and begin to convince themselves that's the way God made them.

We create systems of thought and thinking patterns that become habits and then strongholds that feed on the habits and fortify systems of thoughts that begin operating on automatic pilot.

You see even right now as I'm speaking, there are systems that are going on in each of you differently. Some of you are reflecting on some things. Some of

you are meditating and thinking, I wonder if that has a reason or an impact on how I am. Some are creating defenses. Some are just totally blocking it right out because it's like,

“Okay I can't handle this, but I'm going to sit here and look like I'm okay, so I got to keep my game face on. I can't let them know that this message is penetrating or that the spirit is at work.” (Or whatever the case may be).

Some of you have heard the saying, or you are familiar with technology... you know that right now I've got my computer running and there are systems that, when I turn this computer on, they automatically boot up and there's nothing to alert me that these systems are running in the background.

There are these systems that we've developed that are running in our mind's background that help us to process everything that we are hearing and cause us to see the way we see things. The way you interpret ... you're talking to a person, you're saying one thing and you can tell by their response that they think you're saying something else. You can see from their response, you can hear by how they respond to what you just said, that what you just said is not what they heard.

Systems are going on in the background that are filtering out the words that you're saying and transmitting in code to their mind. Some people will get upset thinking you're saying one thing because they are hearing something different. People you're trying to compliment and they think you're insulting them.

You are trying to help them, and they think that you're trying to tell them what to do. I'm trying to make a difference, trying to show a person a better way. You're trying to explain something that you obviously see that they're stuck at, but they don't want you to tell them what to do.

These are all systems that have been developed in our minds that help to protect us from the outside forces or the outside world that have had a negative impact on our lives. Now people who have been impacted positively by outside influences are a lot more open to suggestions, for counsel, for instruction, for a better way, even for rebuke, because they have come to know **that if you rebuke a wise man, he will get wiser.** If you rebuke a fool, they will turn on you.

You wonder why you're trying to show somebody a better way, you're trying to instruct, you're trying to bring some correction that is sorely needed, and the very ones you're trying to help are ready to bite your hand off. My folks had an expression you don't bite the hand that feeds you.

You're trying to give somebody something to eat, and they think that the hand that is reaching out to help them, looks like the same hand that reached out to abuse them. All they see is it is a hand and the system that is already formed doesn't see a helping hand. They see a hand and the only memory of the hand is a bad hand. The last hand that reached out hit them. The last hand that reached out hurt them. The last hand that reached out took advantage of them. The last hand that reached out left them by the wayside and here you are having absolutely nothing to do with any of those hands but are having to pay for all the

hands that did all the stuff that had absolutely nothing to do with you.

**Systems operating on automatic pilot, these strongholds create defense mechanisms and responses that protect the systems that are operating.**

Dealing with the strongholds can be somewhat perplexing on a human level and can only be dealt with on a spiritual level by the spirit of YeHoVaH. This is the reason why a lot of long-term counseling doesn't work. You can't council spirits, and you can't council systems.

It's amazing; I'm in a counseling session or trying to minister to somebody or even folks who you're trying to pray for. A person calls and asks for prayer and you're ready to pray and 30 minutes later they're still trying to explain to you all the stuff that has happened. It's like really, do I really need to know all this? Do you just have to get it all out, because what you will find is, there's a pattern that every time you want prayer you have to explain all the stuff again, and then receive prayer, and then go on for more prayer and must explain all the stuff again.

Why do you always have to explain all the stuff before you receive prayer?

"Well, I just want you to know how to pray for me."

Well listen, do you want me to know how to pray for you, or do you want the spirit to inspire me knowing what is going on in you to pray for you. Are you even receiving by the spirit?

I'm not trying to be mean, but many people ask for prayer from a thousand folks, thinking the more people that they get praying for them the better chance God is going to hear their prayer. What kind of a relationship is that?

There are a lot of things that we deal with Ladies and Gentlemen that is not going to be dealt with on a spiritual, or natural carnal level. And this is what Paul is trying to address when he opens up and he says though we live in the flesh, we don't wage war after the flesh. We don't. This is where the enemy tries to blind the mind of men and keep the spirit of YeHoVaH out, or the word of truth from taking root which can set us free.

You see, these mechanisms that we have established in us have the tendency to justify our behavior. **Real sustainable deliverance cannot be accomplished without the word of YeHoVaH and one's willingness to learn and operate on the word.**

Some people don't want help they just want company. They don't want deliverance they just want somebody to minister to them. Now you may say how can you say that? I'm telling you. They don't one bit. As they say back home, they don't bit more want deliverance than the man on the moon. You had to go there, didn't you? I was going to let it be, but they don't. They just want to recite over again all the stuff. That's all they want to do; they just want to go through a recital.

And you know you deal with them, it's like Grandpa at the family gathering, every gathering he's

got the same old story. Grandpa, we heard that story a hundred times already.

"Well, you haven't heard it this way and if you have heard, just listen again you might learn something."

This is the way some people are, they just want to recite; they just want to get it out again.

Again, I'm not trying to be mean because by doing this I'm hopefully going to help you recognize any of these systems in operation in you. Because let me tell you something about these systems, these systems that we allow to operate in us, cause people to deal with us on a surface level because people did not want to deal with us anyway. Because we've already set up by these systems, this causes people to not walk out the word?

Here is one of those examples. Someone comes to you to complain about Sister or Brother so and so, and you decide that you're going to operate according to Matthew 18 and you're going to tell them:

"Have you gone to Brother so and so or Sister so and so and told them this matter?"

"Well, no, I just needed some council, I just needed to run it by somebody spiritual."

Well, where is that in the Bible? Where's that at?

How do you say you know the word, but where is that verse? The Bible says that if you have a thought or an offense, if your brother offends, you go to him and

him alone. Why you got to go to 15 other people to tell them the fault of the brother who still doesn't even know the fault. And if you allow someone to bring a fault to you and you don't correct them to tell them what they should do, you're just as guilty as the person that you allowed to bring the fault to you.

Because that's spiritual gossip, it doesn't accomplish anything except now you know something that you're not supposed to know that fortifies the system's already operating in the background of your mind. How is it that the enemy of your friend becomes your enemy? When you don't even know the person, you are an enemy of now because you've allowed someone to come and put something into you, and once you've received this information you can act like you haven't heard it. It's a part of your DNA now, and next time you see Brother so and so, or Sister so and so you've got that suspicious look on your face. They're trying to figure out what did I do to you?

"Oh, you haven't done anything to me, and guess what, I'm not going to let you close enough to have the opportunity to do to me what you did to my friend."

These are systems. Yeshua said in Matthew 11:27-29.

**"All things are delivered unto me of the Father: and no man knows the Son, but the Father; neither know any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomever the Son will reveal him. Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you should find rest unto your souls.**

And then He makes a statement in Matthew 11:30

**“...for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**

There are many people who are carrying all these burdens throughout their life that keep them from being able to enjoy life, to rejoice, to celebrate the Almighty, to celebrate with other people. Things that have caused them to become locked down, suspicious of people, cynical of the world, and complain about everything. I know what I'm talking about because these things have affected me and having to deal with them and not only having to deal with them once, but having to deal with them again, and having to deal with them again and again because even though I've dealt with them 25 or 30 times those same spirits come checking on me from time to time. And they'll continue to come and check on me until I'm out of here because that's what they do, they roam through dry arid places looking for refuge.

Over the next few weeks, we're going to be talking about strongholds, this is Part One. I mean this is not a message that we can get out in an hour, because some of the stuff that we're going to have to deal with, Ladies and Gentlemen, we're going to have to really get down into the nitty-gritty of it because you're not going to allow certain things to change in your life until you confront them.

And let me tell you something, the biggest issue that these things operate out of is fear. **Fear keeps people from making changes.**



They hate the present, but they are afraid of the future. They can't imagine what life would be like in an unknown place that they have never been because they don't know what they want. As one Minister said they only want what they know. You don't know what you're capable of, all you know is what you have been capable of doing.

**There are things that the Almighty can do through you and through your mind if you will allow Him to do His work in you.**

We become so bound by the parameters that we set in our lives and the parameters that we've allowed other people to set in our lives. Many of us spend most of our lives going through the motions. We know we need to make a change, we know there's more, we know the plans. Some of us even know the plan, but now we got to pray for the next five years and fast for the next six years just to make sure that the Almighty continually tells us the plan that He told us so many years ago.

See, you will find a way not to do what He wants you to do and justify it in your heart. You certainly will! One of the justifications is,

“Well, you know, I don't fully understand. God showed me, He told me, but I don't fully understand or I'm not sure. Here is what I think He said, but I'm not actually sure.”

Now you want to go to this prophet and that prophet because you want to have this person pray for you and you want to ask,

“What is the spirit of the Lord telling you about me?”

Listen you don't need to go to someone else to find out what He is telling you, it's no different than you going to someone else to get instructions on how to handle the brother who offended you when He has already instructed you that this is how you handle the brother who offended you. So, we know how we are supposed to handle the brother who offended us, why have we got to go and get 15 more opinions? If only we did that with the doctors.

So, we're going to talk about **strongholds and how to free ourselves from them so we can really be free indeed**. We're going to define strongholds, identify strongholds and look at Biblical examples of strongholds in the lives of YeHoVaH's people, and we have one for you today, but first, the word stronghold here in the Greek,

**G3794 - okh-oo'-ro-mah, is a remote derivative of G2192 ekh'-o; which means to fortify through the idea of holding safely; a castle and figuratively an argument.”**

That's a stronghold. It's one of those things you run up against when you're trying to deal with the person who has already developed in their heart that we are saved by grace. Grace alone, we don't have to do anything. It's that argument that you run across when you're dealing with a person that says once saved always saved. It's the kind of stronghold that has been fortified in the person who says every day is the Sabbath. The person who says that we don't have to keep the Law. The same Yeshua who says how to handle offenses says He didn't come to destroy the

Law. He didn't come to do away with it. But that's not what they hear.

These are the arguments that you and I face when we're dealing with people, the same arguments that you and I used to have when people would try to tell us, and now when we try to tell people the same things the people try to tell us. We run up against the very thing when people were trying to tell us ran up against with us. And now, we get frustrated and want to quit because we don't see ourselves in the very people that we are trying to tell. Yet, we think and feel that if someone really explained it to us way back then which they did, but we weren't ready to receive it way back then. Why? Because of the programs.

**G3794 {okh-oo'-ro-mah}** that also means a fortress. So, when you're talking about pulling down strongholds these are fortified thoughts, fortified patterns of thought.

**2) Anything on which one relies. 2a) of the arguments and reasoning's by which a disputant endeavors to fortify his opinion and defend it against his opponent). "Origin: from a remote derivative of 2192 (Meaning to fortify, through the idea of holding safely).**

There's this place of safety that we have found where we can cope with all the stuff. We found a place where you know all of this stuff that has happened to me, all the things that I've gone through, all the successes, the failure, the let downs, the putdown, the fears, the phobias, all of these things. I have found this space that I can operate in and be productive, but I can't allow anyone to disturb my space, because this is my functional space, this is my operational space.

**Strongholds are very dangerous because they cause us to operate in areas that are opposed to YeHoVaH to satisfy the will of the flesh or our carnal nature.**

Whatever we create within, can and most likely will develop a life of its own. So, if you develop a habit of temper or jealousy or alcoholism or whatever, that habit forms a life of its own in us and it doesn't want to die. You can tell a person well just stop smoking, well just stop drinking, just stop lying, but it doesn't want to die. Now you know lying is wrong. You know smoking stinks. I mean it's amazing, those of you who used to smoke, getting around people who smoke and now you can't stand it. Anyone, my hand is already raised, anyone here who used to smoke who can't stand to be around people who smoke? The very thing you can't stand you used to be. And this happens in a lot of areas.

The people who are rejecting the message used to be us. I'm telling you that this happens in a variety of areas, and we need to identify these areas so that we'll begin to dismantle and pull down the strongholds. If Father is continually coming at you about something, He's trying to get your attention. And basically, what He's trying to do is improve you.

Strongholds will develop a system, excuses or reasoning's of justification, or department of defense to maintain its operation and to advanced grounds within it in order to have a lifetime habitation. In the Bible, Yeshua says that when you first deal with the stronghold you know it because this is where demonic forces are. The strongholds in your life is like the water cooler in the corporate office. People gather around it

and talk about the night before. Or, it's like the place where people sit and have lunch or whatever, where you have dialogue that has really not a whole lot to do with work.

Spirits, different spirits, are gravitating toward the strongholds that you've allowed to operate. These spirits now can manipulate the stronghold and the operation and actually go unnoticed in your life.

There are people, when you get to a sensitivity level ... Some of you have seen spirits. It's not the ugly orb that some people want to describe it. Some of you have felt them; some of you smelt them. Unclean spirits have a unique smell. It's not just a bad odor; it's not just musty covered up with cologne or perfume. There's a distinct smell that is associated with unclean spirits. Some of you when you get to a certain place with the Almighty and discernment, you can see them, feel them, smell them, and sense them. You just know, and they're certain people that you get around that you notice it more. Spirits are drawn to areas that you've allowed strongholds to develop.

Deciding to quit or stop is easily defeated and often times need long-term human intervention simply to keep the desires manageable. People can manage their addiction. AA, the Alcoholic Anonymous, Drug Anonymous, and all of those places can give you tools on how to avoid certain people and places; to avoid certain things; don't let yourself get too hungry, don't get too lonely, don't get angry, and don't get tired.

They call that the halt principal. Don't allow yourself to go into certain places where you are more prone to relapse. You avoid certain people that bring that side of you out. You noticed that you can tell the

kind of person you are by the people you associate with. It's no coincidence that you like being around certain types of people. It says a lot about who you are.

As parents, we become very concerned about that for our children, though as children, they're nowhere near as concerned as parents are. When we were children, just like our children, our parents were concerned about us and just like our children, we couldn't see it. Now that we're parents and we have children, we see the very things that our parents saw but we couldn't see then. Dealing with the same issues, that's the cycle, and you and I are dealing with a lot of this. Councils and systems that are set up can help us manage these behaviors.

**Jeremiah 17:5 "Thus says YeHoVaH cursed be the man that trust in man."**

There are people who put their confidence in the doctors, in the psychologist, in the chiropractors. The people put their confidence in the oil managers and sellers of systems, and they become representatives of these systems. And pretty soon they're touting the system. To be a good salesman you got to believe in the product. Sometimes to sell the product you have tout the system and the product as the healer, as the one that is going to get the job done.

When the fact of matter is, there's only one healer. Now that's not to discredit that He can't use these things because He can. But when we begin to attribute the deliverance, the healing, the miraculous operation that takes place in a person's life to the product that we're selling, we just become a false prophet.

That's why I don't get involved; I don't deal with a lot of these things. I'll tell you why because I can't do what I do with a clear conscience, knowing that my livelihood comes from this. Because every at opportunity, it'll come out in my ministry. Next thing you know, every time I preach a sermon, I have got to push something, I've got to sell something, I've got to make you buy something. It just becomes a part of who you are. Well, there's only one that I want to represent and that's why it's hard for me even to push this stuff even though I know it'll change your life, but it's He who gave that stuff to produce it that will change your life.

**Jeremiah 17:5-11 Thus Saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. 17:6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. 17:7 Blessed is the man that trusts in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. 17:8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**

We can't trust ourselves. I'm not to put my trust in me. I'm not to put my trust in my abilities. I'm not to put my trust in my talents, I'm not to put my trust in my skills. YeHoVaH can use my skills, He can use my talents. But the moment I begin to focus on my talents

and my skills and my gifts, then guess what becomes the focus?

Even though, as I sometimes often use myself as an example, it is because I'm a trustworthy example. What do I mean by that? I know what I've done. I've heard people's testimony only to find out they've only given a partial testimony. Because there are people who can give a testimony, and all they bring is the glory of the testimony, but you don't see all the stuff. So, it's hard for me to use someone else because I haven't seen the life they've lived. I don't overcome by the testimony of other people, I am overcome by my own testimony. It's what the Almighty has done in me I can see firsthand.

**Jeremiah 17:10. "I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. 17:11 As the partridge sitting on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he can getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.**

There are a lot of wealthy fools; there are a lot of materially prosperous fools.

When a stronghold has been developed, we do whatever we need to do to protect and defend our reasoning and our irrational desire. You will protect the bad decision you made. If you're not careful you will try to justify your actions and the way you justify your actions is just shift the blame. We're so quick to shift the blame. The moment somebody comes at you with something, you immediately begin to look at who's responsible other than me. And you'll never take the blame for anything, you'll always find someone else to



take the fall because after all, you're blameless. How hard it is for some people to say,

“You know what, I messed up.”

“You know what, I'm sorry.”

“You know what, I did do that. Please forgive me.”

Instead, they're shifty instead of accepting responsibility.

“Well, if I did that, please forgive me.”

“If I did that!”

“If I hurt, you!”

“If I said that, I don't remember saying it, but if I said that!”

**That's false humility.** It's like accepting you did something without owning the fact that you did it. It's like people who want to settle and then seal the records on an undisclosed amount.

I'm going to take us here, and I won't get through it all, but I got to give you probably one of the most famous examples on the planet to show us. Turn with me please to 2nd Samuel. We're talking about pulling down strongholds. Before you can identify strongholds and how they work in your life, you would have to be super spiritual. I'm talking about super spiritual to the point where you allow the Almighty to just search you, to rend you, to go into the crevices into every place in

you to show you. And then you have the heart and stomach to stomach it.

You have people who have so much pride, people who go off on a dime. You confront them about how they go off so quick and the first thing they try to do is justify themselves going off.

“Why are you so quick-tempered?”

“Well, that's just the way I am.”

“If that's the way you are do you think that's holy? Is that holy? Is that a righteous position?”

Then to know that and continue to do it; is amazing. It's really absolutely amazing to me how I hear righteous people so quickly use a profane word and use it without even thinking.

“Oh, you know they just like to b\*\*\*\*.”

“I don't know what's wrong with those b\*\*\*\*\*s”.

I mean, I'm looking at some preachers who will curse, and you know I try to keep myself sanctified. And I'm not talking about curses, I'm talking about curse as in profanity. They will put the idea in your head and leave you there.

Some of us are so profane all I got to do is say “the ‘f’ word” and your mind automatically goes to one ‘f’ word. Why? Is that the only “f” word you know? Why does our mind go certain places when we say certain things or when someone says certain things to us? What is it that causes our minds to automatically go there?

You see, to the pure all things are supposed to be pure. We claim to be pure, but then our minds go to impure places simply by the suggestion of someone else. And sometimes when our mind goes there, we get this grin. We get this sinister look.

“Yeah, you know, well, I’m not all the way saved.”

Why are you smiling about not being all the way saved? Where's that coming from?

2nd Samuel, this is a situation for those of you who know; just follow with me for those of you who don't know. This is a circumstance when the king who YeHoVaH established does evil.

We talked about the Psalmist David in relation to Psalmist David, but now we're going to talk about the David who started this thing, who was the one who wrote the Psalms. David was a man after YeHoVaH's own heart, and yet David had some serious issues that even while he was in the midst of his wickedness, he made a righteous proclamation that condemned himself.

Now for those New Testament people who don't think YeHoVaH has mercy and grace in the Old Testament, go all the way back to Samuel. We'll start at 2nd Samuel 11:26. We'll start at the end of the story, but let me give you the whole story. David fell in love with a man's wife. Now the Torah strictly condemns coveting your neighbor's wife. But David not only fell in love with a man's wife, but the man was loyal and faithful to David.

While he's away in battle defending the kingdom, David is at home sleeping with his wife. The unthinkable happens, she gets pregnant. David finds out that this woman is pregnant and knows that in due time, like many of us who anticipate how long pregnancy and birth takes place, this man is going to figure out at some point that the wife that is pregnant and not pregnant by him.

So, David goes into a mode, of trying to figure out how to cover, how to hide what he has done. See, sometimes in the process of us trying to cover and hide our wrongs, we cover and hide our sin. **The Bible says cursed is a man that hides his sin.** Cursed is the man who tries to cover up what he has done. Everything that is done in darkness is eventually going to come to the light.

You know the beauty of all of this is that YeHoVaH takes the only person in the Bible that the Bible refers to as a **man after YeHoVaH's own heart** and puts everything he did in perpetuity. He had it written and recorded so that the entire Kingdom at the time would know because this is not something that he exposed to us hundreds of years later. David was exposed at the time he did what he did, and yet the mercy and the grace of YeHoVaH was still there, but in verse 26.

Well, the wife gets pregnant, and David ships the husband off to war and puts the husband on the front line where it is guaranteed he is going to get killed. But before he does that, he calls the husband home. David tells the husband to go and be with your wife, but the man was so loyal that he says how can I go and

have pleasure with my wife while my brothers and I, we are at war. I cannot do such a thing. That didn't work.

The husband refused to go in and be with his wife. If he had actually went into his wife, the child would be seen as the husband's. Now the wife has got to lie, David has got to lie, and the only one in darkness is the man that is being manipulated, but because he is righteous and holy or desires not to do such a thing, he now is put on the front line and he dies, he is killed.

Word gets back to David that the husband, Uriah, is dead. David's plan now worked; Uriah's wife grieves.

It is amazing that a woman can grieve, but see here's where religious authority can abuse itself because people in authority can get people under their authority to do things that even the ones that are doing it know it is not right.

It is like why would a daughter go to Hollywood and for the sake of wanting to be in a movie end up on the casting couches? I believe that if I could have sex with the person who is producing this movie, they are going to give me a role. The young man who runs off to Hollywood to be famous finds himself in a same-sex relationship trying to get a part. The things people do to get a job, to get a promotion, to get recognized, to get authority, influence, and power. How do people manipulate other people and dog out other people and just demonize folks, putting others down so they can exalt themselves?

All of this is in our DNA. None of us are exempt from this behavior and again this is not for you to look at your husband. This is not for you to look at your wife.

**It's for you and me to look at ourselves** in the mirror because guess what? You cannot correct your wife. You can rebuke her, you can condemn her, you can punish her, you can take the stuff away, but **only YeHoVaH can change a heart**. A person will adjust to the behavior, but their hearts do not change. Only YeHoVaH can change a heart and you can do the same thing to your wife, to your husband, to your children. Some people are even doing it to their parents.

We got some manipulative children. Maybe you do not, but I am going to tell you, there is nothing like a child that knows how to manipulate their mama. And they will work that thing, and they will work it and if it is not stopped when they are little, guess what? They will become grown-up manipulators. They really will, and they will use that manipulative behavior in every relationship. And they will figure out really quickly who they can manipulate and who they cannot.

So, this is what he says,

**2nd Samuel 11: 26-27. “And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband. 11:27 And when the mourning was past, David sent...”** (David sent; he could not wait and as soon as she was over mourning). She was only allowed a certain amount of time to mourn. David sent for her.) **“...and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased YeHoVaH.”**

You see David tried to make this situation right, that is what he tried to do. But one wrong led to another and ultimately to murder.

If you do not correct these manipulative behaviors and deal with these strongholds in your life you will find yourself at odds with YeHoVaH, talking about how you love Him. This is why when people tell me about certain people who do not keep the Sabbath and how much these people love God. I just point them to the Scriptures; I am not going to argue with you. The Bible says that if you say you love God and do not keep His Commandments, you are a liar. So, you can cry all you want, you can lie all you want, you can roll on the floor, you lift your hands up and sing HalleluYah till the angels stop singing and start taking notes – wow!

The Bible says if you do not keep His Commandments, it does not matter how much you say you love Him, you are a liar, and the truth is not in you. Bailey did not write that.

In verse 1 of Chapter 12, YeHoVaH sent Nathan. And you see that YeHoVaH loves us so much, He loves us so much that He sent somebody to us.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12:1. “And the LORD sent Nathan unto David.”**

The problem is that when YeHoVaH sends someone to bring correction it is usually not received well, and this is what makes David unique. Once David was shown the error of his ways, he was sorely grieved at what he did. And he was not just grieved, he found himself in a state of repentance. Not only does he repent, but he writes about his repentance in the Psalms. Even though YeHoVaH didn't kill David, the son had to die. And the thing that David sowed, David had to reap.

You see YeHoVaH is not mocked. Whatever a man sows, that shall he reap. All the dirt dug, all the wrong you've done, all the hurt you've caused, you're going to have to reap from that, even though you give your life to YeHoVaH. Even though you get born again, even though you get saved, even though you repented, **YeHoVaH is not mocked. You can't sow a seed and not get a harvest. Whatever a man shows so shall he reap.**

Now here's what I say the moment you realize you've been sowing bad seed,

“Stop!”

If you stop sowing bad seed pretty soon all the harvest of the seeds you sown will come to fruition and at that point, all the good seeds that you've been sowing will begin to bring a harvest. But you got to deal with all these harvests that are coming. You can't get out of the harvests that you've sown.

So, let's get this understood, people say,

“Oh man, save me, I give my life to Jesus.”

Then all this stuff starts happening. No, it didn't just start happening those are harvests that are coming in. Those seeds have been sown and are now ready for harvest. Are you following what I'm saying? So hopefully you'll understand all the bad, all the stuff that is coming at you, **the harvest hopefully will remind you of the seeds.**

See people don't see the seeds, all they see is the harvest. A curse causeless will not come.



Everything that happens to you, there's a cause. Generally, if you're reaping, it's because you have sown.

So, man up, woman up! Deal with the harvest, but don't respond to the harvest negatively. When the harvest comes in and people come to you to confront you, your role is to repent.

“You know what? I did, I'm sorry.”

So, it's none of that,

“If I, well I don't remember.”

Some people say I'm sorry with attitude. Have you ever dealt with people that say,

“Well, I'm sorry then! Geez, what do you expect from me? I said I'm sorry!”

Really, that's what you did? You said it, and you didn't mean it. Because, if you don't mean it, you can say it all you want. You can even teach your mouth to lie. You can teach your mouth to say things you don't believe. You don't feel it. It's not even a part of you.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12:1-15; 12:1 “And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. 12:2 The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: 12:3 But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.**

12:4 And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. 12:5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: 12:6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. 12:7 And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith The LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; 12:8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. 12:9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. 12:10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. 12:11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbor, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. 12:12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. 12:13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

What was the penalty for David? Death. David was supposed to be killed. YeHoVaH's mercy, YeHoVaH's grace, spared his life before the cross. There was no cross to nail anything to. The mercy and the grace shown to him is evident here. Then He says,

**12:14 “Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die. 12:15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.”**

Ultimately the child dies.

You gotta understand something, David didn't have this affair in public. The Bible says he did it in secret. David did it in secret, but those who worked for David knew exactly what was going on. Those who worked for David knew exactly what was going on and you know what they did? They covered it up. But guess what? When it hit David, their livelihood was now disrupted. David had to pay.

Guess what? David's staff, the ones who went and got Bathsheba and brought her to David; the ones who followed the order to have Uriah put on the front line; if you read a little further, you'll see that they are all murmuring among one another. And they won't tell David that the son is dead, but David figured it out, by watching how they're communicating among themselves.

You see there are businesses, there are ministries, there are organizations and they have staff working and they see the wrong that is being done and

they're trying to cover it up and put the spins on it. But when it hits, it hits, and everybody will have to suffer for it.

All the people of David's house, those who are confidants of David found themselves facing all the persecution that was aimed at David. When David had to flee for his life, they too had to flee; they couldn't stay in the palace.

The prophet had to go to David when the people that worked for David should have been saying,

“David that's wrong”.

They were afraid; they were afraid of their livelihood being disrupted. They were afraid of what David might do, that he might fire them or kill them. You see, we have a responsibility if we're going to be righteous, especially if we claim to be working for a righteous organization.

**We have a responsibility to speak the truth, even if it cost us, but what keeps us from speaking the truth? Programs,** because all of us are only thinking about ourselves, our own welfare, and our own well-being;

“I can't afford to be fired, I don't know what I'm going to do. I can't quit. I don't know what I'm going to do. I need this job; I need this money.”

And because of that, we find ourselves being quiet when we should be speaking. Instead we compromise our values or principles when we should be speaking up. Because, it is the truth of YeHoVaH

that sets the captives free. **There is no freedom apart from the word.**

YeHoVaH loved David so much that He sent him a prophet. David was wise enough to not kill the prophet like a lot of them did. That's one of the things that made David a man after YeHoVaH's own heart. When YeHoVaH confronted David with his sin, David repented, he took the whipping. He would not turn his back on YeHoVaH. He says that I deserve death but the fact that you let me live, I'm going to serve you. As Job said, though He slay me I will still serve Him.

YeHoVaH is trying to bring correction to us because if we're left to ourselves, we will destroy ourselves. We are destructive people, Ladies and Gentlemen. We think we know best; here's how you think you know best. You think you know best when you do what His word says not to do, thinking you're going to get away with something, thinking that you're exempt. Now again I'm preaching to me, but I'm ministering to you. Do you understand what I'm saying?

So, here's what's going to happen. We're going to pick this up. I wanted to get to the Psalms, but you can read that later. We're going to go through some of this so you can see and feel and hear David's repentance. We need to learn how to repent, really we do. We need to learn how to take YeHoVaH at His word, to stand and walk in His word.

I'm going to tell you something. I know too well how easy it has been to compromise the Word because of the fear of the potential consequences that are in front of us.

I've had to come to the conclusion that where I thought I trusted the Almighty I didn't. I didn't, I didn't trust Him. I'm teaching the word and don't trust Him. I'm teaching people to put their trust in Him, and I don't trust Him. I'm teaching people not to fear, yet I'm scared to death. I know what it's like and I know how easy it is, especially when you got family and you got bills. Especially when you want to eat, and we say He fights our battles, and He's our provider, but the bottom line is the one who is providing for us, is us.

You see when you put your trust in Him sometimes you have no idea where your provisions are going to come from. You have no idea. We've created systems and mechanisms and put things in places.

You know, I know people who want to do the will of the Almighty, but they don't have the resources.

"Well, I would do this if I had this. I would move if I had a job if I had this and that and thus and thus. You know, but I've become very comfortable where I am, even though I don't like where I am. I would rather have this bird in the hand, than the ones in the bush. I know YeHoVaH wants me to go, and I know where you want me to go, but the provisions for me to go have not been made because it's not in my hand. I don't have the provisions. I don't see how I'm going to get the provisions. So YeHoVaH, if you put the provisions in my hand I will go."

And YeHoVaH is saying,

"Listen I've got the provisions just go."

"No, I've got to see it with my own eyes, I got to put my hands on it, you know I got to rub it."

It's like Thomas, except I see it with my own eyes and touch the place I won't believe.

Then there are many people that say,

“I believe YeHoVaH I know you will provide for me, but I've got to see it first. I have to have it in my hand, I can't go on your word.”

Now we don't say that, but our actions say that. YeHoVaH is telling us to do some things but because of the systems in operation, we say with our mouth we are a people of faith when we're actually walking by sight. Strongholds, Strongholds, and these things have to be pulled down.

I'm going to show you or at least give you some instructions on how to begin to dismantle these strongholds, but you've got to digest what I've just said.

## Notes

[illegible]



## **Pulling Down Strongholds**

### **Part Two**

Last week, we had the privilege and the pleasure of entering into the presence of the Almighty and allowing Him to have His way in the midst of us. Some of you took to heart what was said, what was instructed, and you acted on it. I received testimonies from individuals this week who walked out some things that the Father revealed to them even while the message was going on. I believe that today He's going to continue revealing Himself to us and we just have to be open and be ready to do whatever it is that He instructs us to do.

We're going to be talking about the strongholds and pulling them down; identifying them and pulling them down. I expect as I always expect. I've said it before and I'll say it again; it bears repeating. Whenever you come to the House of Israel, whether you join us in person or if you join us online, it is my hope, my prayer that you would always come expecting. Because I come expecting. I not only come expecting that the Father's going to minister through me, but I also come expecting that He's going to minister to me because I know too that I'm a man undone.

I am so liberated and so free that the weight of the burden of this world has been lifted off me. I embraced the fact that I wasn't perfect, that I'm prone to make mistakes, and that I don't even have to be perfect. I don't even have to try to be perfect, but I desire to have a perfect heart toward Him so that He can perfect me.

Now in saying all of that, many of us, even though we say with our mouths that we know we're not perfect, we act sometimes as though we are. We act as though everybody around us makes mistakes, but we don't make mistakes, and that our actions and behavior are the results of what other people do. Because, after all we're perfect, and we will do perfect things as long as people leave us alone and don't mess with us. Get out of my lane, get out of my space, do what I say, do what I expect. If everybody did what I wanted them to do, I would have a perfect world, but you know that doesn't happen.

Our wives, those of you who are married, have a mind of their own. Husbands, those of you who are married, have a mind of their own. Our children, those of you who have children, have a mind of their own and everybody wants to do their own thing. Believe it or not, that's Biblical because YeHoVaH gave us that right to do our own thing, even to reject Him. Imagine a creator who gave us the ability to reject the One who created us. I mean that's awesome.

He does it because He doesn't want to force Himself on you. He wants you to choose Him and so He puts us in situations where we now are able to distinguish life with Him and life without Him; hoping that wisdom would show up and we would choose life with Him because we see life with Him is better than life without Him. It's like really, it is? Yeah, it is!

**Second Corinthians 10:1-6; 1. "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: 2. But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I'm present with that confidence, wherewith I think**

to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) 5. Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Messiah; 6. And having in readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

That's the passage that we started out with last week and today we're going to pick up where we left off in **Part 2 of Pulling Down Strongholds**.

As I said last week, over the next few weeks we are going to be talking about strongholds because believe it or not Ladies and Gentlemen, we all have them. We have them in some form, in some shape, and we have to literally begin to try to identify how they are operating in our lives.

We defined strongholds last week. Some of you identified strongholds and we began to look at probably the best Biblical example of strongholds in the lives of your YeHoVaH's people as we looked at the life of David.

**(Strong's 3794) okh-oo'-ro-mah from a remote derivative of (2192 ekh'o; (meaning to fortify, it's through the idea of holding safely); a castle (figurative argument): - stronghold.**

We talked about last week, that some of us already and those of you have children, you notice that when a child comes to you oftentimes, they already

anticipate what they're about to ask you, that you're going to say no.

Children, those of you who are with me, when you go to your parents do you expect that what you're about to ask them they're going to say "no" as a first response? Any of you? None of you? What about some of you? I know that's probably how my children are.

That's the way I was, so maybe I'm just old-fashioned, maybe I'm old school. I think that's the case. If you do say "no", you'll notice that they already planned a response. The first thing they want to do is engage in conversation. Now the goal is to get you to discuss the matter, and what's the point? If I can get you engaged in discussing the matter, then there's a good chance I can change your mind.

I've already got my arguments, I've got every defense, to every response, even responses you haven't thought of. Children are quick on their feet to wear some parents down. Parents just have to come out with a harsh "NO" and that's it. Now that's usually the dad, moms are a little bit more lenient in some cases, not all cases. In some cases, dads are more lenient.

Have you ever found yourself having a discussion with your child after you have said "No"?

Let me talk to the parents for a moment. Have you? Now just as you are in the human form, in the natural form we also, as spiritual people, have a tendency to approach the Almighty from that mindset. I can imagine that the first man, the first woman, Mr. and Mrs. Adam, with clear Instructions not to touch the

fruit that is on the tree, that is in the midst of the garden; the forbidden tree that somehow through discussion, conversation, and rationalization they ended up doing what they were instructed not to do.

Many of us, if we're honest, have disobeyed our parents. They have given us clear-cut instructions not to do something, but because it was in our heart to do and we wanted to do it, we did it anyway. **It's a travesty if you do what you have been instructed not to do, and don't get caught.** The reason why that's an issue is that if you in your mind think you have gotten away with it, you are more than likely to repeat it in some other way.

What happens is that **sin has a tendency not to digress or to decrease, but to increase in our lives.** The more we think we got away with something, the more likely we are to try to get away with something else.

So, we keep pushing the envelope, we keep pushing and pushing and pushing until there is a frustration among some parents to where they come to the conclusion: "I SAID NO!" When I hear that happening in my house, I know that the envelope has been pushed as far as it's going to be pushed. I hear that voice. I will not tell you who it is coming from, but it's not coming from me. Later on, you know they come back with another angle.

Now here is what I noticed about my children, especially one of them, and I won't mention any names. When he comes, he has got about five things and he goes right down the list. Now usually what he really wants is number two or number one. But he starts with number five; he starts with sometimes the impossible

knowing that your response is going to be “no”. So, he goes from number five to number four. Well, if I can't have that can I have this? If that's a “no” because he knows it probably is going to be a “no”, then he goes to number three. Now what he really wants is number two or number one. So how many times are you going to say “no” to the child? So, ultimately, he gets what he wants, but he doesn't come at what he wants initially.

Some of us are like that. We've got number 1, number 2, number 3, number 4, number 5, but we intend to get something out of the deal. The more you think you've gotten away with something, the stronger the hold of that thing is on you.

The idea of establishing a fortress.

**Strong's 3794 "{okh-oo'-ro-mah} 1) a castle, stronghold, fortress, fastness 2) anything on which one relies 2a) of the arguments and reasonings by which a disputant endeavors to fortify his opinion and defend it against his opponent."**

The bottom line is, they have their argument together. Attorneys are good at it.

Strongholds are dangerous because it causes us to operate in areas that are opposed to YeHoVaH to satisfy the will of the flesh for our carnal nature. Strongholds will develop a system (excuses or reasonings of justification) or a department of defense to maintain its operation and to advance grounds within in order to have a lifetime habitation.

When a stronghold has been developed, we do whatever we need to do to protect and defend our reasonings or irrational desires. Now last week we

looked at David. David saw something that he wanted and he knew it was wrong to have. And yet he went through the process of getting what he wanted even to the point to where it led to murder. Except it wasn't just flat-out murder, it was decisions that were made to put certain people in certain places at certain times knowing the possible outcome was that it would be murder or death.

David ended up with Bathsheba, Uriah's wife. The Prophet came to him and spoke to David and told him that what he had done had been wrong. David began the process of repenting.

I asked you last week to read Psalms 51 because this is what we're going to be looking at today. David, a man after YeHoVaH's own heart, is similar to many of you in this room. I say and you hear me say, that finally in my life I'm among people that I feel safe. As a minister, in many of the places that I've been, people and their agendas, people and their motives, it causes ministers to have to isolate themselves from people and put people around them to make it hard for people to get to them because they don't necessarily feel comfortable or safe. Some even go to the point of hiring bodyguards. They have armor-bearers, people that you must go through, just to get to the person. And that's real.

Some of you heard me tell this story; there was a young man whose wife joined our fellowship. This was right as we began to transition from Sunday to the Sabbath. She was part of a Seventh Day Adventist congregation and found out about us, came to our service, and started liking us. He didn't like the fact that she left the church. One Wednesday, I think we were having Bible Study on Wednesdays at that time. He

decided that he was going to put a finish to it. He was going to end it and what he was going to end was not her and not himself; he was going to put an end to me.

So, he loaded his pistol and headed to the congregation, where we were and somehow in his testimony the Holy Spirit got a hold of him and caused him to repent and he changed his mind. He shared this testimony with me later.

Now I had no idea that this stuff was going on. Some of you have seen situations, you heard on the news where individuals have come into congregational settings. They have shot the place up, they have shot pastors, they wounded bystanders, they have wounded innocent people because they got upset at something that takes place in an environment. Whether they got fired, whether the preacher got involved with the man's wife, or all kinds of things that cause people to lose their mind temporarily and do something.

There's a lot of ministers in prison, a lot of pastors, a lot of rabbis, a lot of deacons, a lot of elders that are locked up somewhere. Some of them are in minimum or maximum security and now they must do their ministry in the confines of incarceration.

David could have anything he wanted. He was king, you don't get any higher authority or power than the king of the land. So, David decided that he was going to have something that he wasn't rightfully entitled to and figured out a way to get it. All the while the Almighty is seeing what is going on in David's heart.

Now I know that for some of us to get to a place where we do something that we spend the rest of our



lives regretting that there are series of opportunities where the Almighty tries to get our attention. He'll send somebody, He will prick our spirit, He will prick us in our heart, and He'll try to appeal to our conscience. Someone will come to us with some weird dream they had. Some words that they got that they don't understand. They have no clue what they just said, but it penetrates the heart of the hearer, even though they don't even know what they said.

I remember one ministry where I was the Elder on staff and my wife had a dream about the pastor, the apostle, and one day she shared the dream. We had no clue as to what the dream was, but when she shared the dream with him he knew exactly what it was. We still do not know. Come to find out that some things that he was doing was not only tearing his life apart, but ultimately was going to tear the ministry apart.

The dream came to her as a team of wild horses driving things going on in the ministry. There's this insatiable desire in him, it comes out later, that he is fooling around with someone in the ministry. And then it is exposed that elders and wives of elders are having relationships with one another and the pastor is in a relationship with one of the elder's wives.

Well, that ministry no longer exists. One of the fastest-growing ministries at one time in Western Michigan, with nine to eleven other congregations in different parts of the state or the nation, different states, and we even had a ministry in Canada. And, I'm one of the Elders on staff and now that Ministry no longer exist. The pastor, his wife divorced him, the children are doing secular things, and he is still trying to do ministry. These are the kinds of things that happen.

Father finds ways to try to get our attention and when He is unable to get our attention, He must expose us, so that everybody knows. Initially He tried to deal with you in secret because that's the way He is. He is not out here trying to expose everybody's business like some people. Father is trying to deal discreetly so that hopefully we would repent, change our heart, change our direction, get on His plan, and abandon ours.

See, He knows the plan that He has for us. **For us to get on His plan, He has to somehow get us to see that the plan that we have is not the best plan;** even though you think your plan for your life, and I think the plan that I made for my life, is the best plan for my life. Because after all, whose life is it? Well, we don't think it's His, we think it's ours, even after we have given it to Him. Hallelujah!

**Psalms 51:1-2 "To the chief musician, a Psalms of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. 1. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin."**

David, after the Prophet is gone and David is convicted of his sin, begins to have this conversation with the Almighty.

**Psalms 51:1 "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness:"**

See, David knew about the loving-kindness of the Almighty.

**Psalms 51:1 "according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies..."**

Not only does he acknowledge that there is tender mercies from YeHoVaH, but he uses the term "multitude" which is an indication that by the time the Prophet gets to him, David, after the Prophet leaves, reflects possibly on all the opportunities that the Almighty was trying to stop David in his tracks before David did something that was literally going to cost someone their life.

My logic says, Father, you know the end from the beginning, why didn't you send the Prophet to David before David did what he did. David could have easily denied that this was even in his heart.

There are people who deny what they have done even when they are caught red-handed. They will lie and lie and lie and lie and make you think you didn't see what you just saw.

You see, each one of us Ladies and Gentlemen have patterns, each of us. You don't even know that you have patterns. You are a creature of habit. Most people wear their hair the same way every day. Now, I have no choice, I really don't. You know it's a brush stroke here, a stroke there, and I'm done. But some people can move stuff around, some people can get a little Grecian formula, a little Just for Men, or they can put stuff in there to alter their appearance. Do you know what I'm saying, anybody? Some people have choices. Add a few inches here and there, whatever. But some of us don't really have much option when it comes down to appearances unless, of course, they go the surgical way.

But David here identifies the fact that he is dealing with an El who has a multitude of mercy.

**Psalms 51:2 "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity..."**

The beauty of David is that when David was finally confronted, David didn't deny what he'd done, he didn't deny it. When the Almighty was trying to get David's attention, David didn't ignore it. Psalms 51:2-3; He says,

**"...cleanse me from my sin. 3. For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me."**

As I, from time to time, reflect back on my life, especially as I get closer to the Almighty, the more I'm aware of my sinfulness, let's put it that way. As I'm reflecting on the path that I've come and I'm reminded of some of the things that I've done, it has helped me to conclude, though I point the finger at people for the things that they've done that caused me to do what I did, I am also reflecting how to accept the responsibility and the role that I played. Because of some of the things that have happened to me, I invited in. Some of the things that took place in my life, I set the course for that action to come toward me.

It's one of those laws, that you know people out there used, called The Law of Attraction. There are certain things that I have attracted to myself because of the mindset and the attitude that I have taken, and I find myself in certain company. See, when you are a drinker you don't hang around non-drinkers. When you are a smoker, you don't associate with non-smokers. If

you are a gambler, chances are that people that are in your circle are gamblers. So, whatever it is, it's like that old adage, birds of a feather they flock together. This is how you can tell what kind of a person you are by the people that you associate with. Are you with me today?

But then David says,

**Psalms 51:3 "... My sin is ever before me."**

Then he makes this statement.

**Psalms 51:4 "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned..."**

Now this is not correct, but David makes it. In his life, he can say whatever he wants to say because David sinned against Bathsheba, he did. David sinned against the kingdom that he was leading. The example that he set was not a good example and he had to pay for what he did publicly. He says,

**Psalms 51:4 "...that thou mightiest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest."**

Now, this whole idea of my sin is ever before me, causes me to ask why would David say such a thing? And of course, I had to go to Deuteronomy. Because there are some things as king that David was responsible for.

**Deuteronomy 17:14-15 "When thou are come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shall possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shall say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; 15. Thou shalt in any**

**wise set him king over thee, whom The LORD thy God shall choose; one from among thy brethren shall thou set King over thee: ..."**

Now, what is he saying? I know there's a lot of things that we've adopted in our law system in our constitution. We can say "I believe it comes from this". One of the things about the Constitution of the United States, in order for a person to be a president of the United States they have to be an American. They have to be a citizen. So, this whole brew-ha-ha over the birth certificate of the current resident of the White House became a major issue. You know what's really interesting is the gullibility and sometimes the stupidity of people. Because if in fact there is a problem with a birth certificate, then how did that get pass all of those intelligent people on Capitol Hill, and all of those intelligent people who are supposed to be governing legislatively. How would I put it ... the judiciary arm of government, the Supreme Court of the United States of America? For there to be someone sitting in the White House when the Constitution clearly says that they have to be a citizen of this country and there are people who allow that to happen. Then the ones who allowed it to happen are just as guilty as the one who pulled the wool over everybody's eyes. Some folks don't like to hear that but, "Hey!"

YeHoVaH established that if there's going to be a king over Israel, this king has to be from one of the tribes, and not only does it have to be from one of the tribes, it has to be the one whom I choose. He says,

**Deuteronomy 17:15 "...thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not your brother. 16. But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor**

**cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses..."**

In other words, do not make a covenant with people that are going to cause multiplication of horses, wives, silver and gold to come on you, and you taking the people in bondage.

**Deuteronomy 17:16 "For as much as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way."**

As I have brought you out don't go back. This is what Yeshua was talking about when He says when a man puts his hands to the plow and looks back, he's not worthy. When you start thinking about the world that I came from, the life I had before I came into Messiah seems to be better than the life I have in the Messiah. That's wrong thinking. Because ultimately, it's going to cause a backsliding. You might not only want to look back, but want to go back. YeHoVaH says don't go back.

**Deuteronomy 17:17 "Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away..."**

There is no one who can convince a man to do something against YeHoVaH as his wife can. It was Mrs. Adam that got Mr. Adam to eat from the tree. Mrs. Adam got a lot of power. Listen to me, Mrs. Adams, seriously! You all have an incredible amount of power and you can misuse it. This is what He says, "don't multiply wives." Solomon allowed his wives to influence him to the point that where he had back-slid so bad, I mean so bad, to where he is building temples, high places, so his wives can go and worship their idols

while he's King over Israel. Total violation of the Commandments!

He says,

**Deuteronomy 17:17-18 "...neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. 18. And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites."**

So, David was responsible for not only knowing the Commands; but he was supposed to personally write his own copy of the Commands from the manuscripts given to the Priests and Levites.

So, when David says "my transgression is ever before me;" many of us who know that when you are about to step across the line there's something within you, something that just stirs up, and you know that you're about to do something wrong.

He says, "my sins are ever before me."

**Deuteronomy 17:19 "And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life..."**

Do you think David did that? Yeah, he did it absolutely. David did this.

Now let me share something with you. Because by the time we get to Matthew, not that we're going to Matthew today, but by the time we get to Matthew, there's a king on the throne. His name is Herod. When the Magi came to Herod and said okay, where is this King that is supposed to be born? Herod didn't have a



clue. He had to call the priest and they had to go search the Scriptures which say to me Herod had not followed this Command.

Now there were wicked kings and there were good kings. With all of the good kings that ever sat on the throne, there was always a revival of the Torah. Because now they would find the books, they would summon the Priests that would re-establish the worship of YeHoVaH. They would tear down the high places and they would have His Law rule the land. That's what distinguishes a good king from an evil king. All of the good kings of Israel always followed this Command. And even Josiah, a boy when he became king, they found a copy of the Torah and he read from it. He said we are so far off course. So, all the kings had a copy.

Now let me take this another step. Do you think the King of Kings knew the Torah? We know that He didn't grow up in some school.

“Hey, listen I didn't come to abolish the Law,”

which is an indication He was aware of the Law, There's no indication that He was brought up in some school, yet at a young age He is disputing among the scholars concerning the Law. So, the King of Kings, the one we call Messiah, the one we call Yeshua, the one people call Jesus, knew the Law and He walked in it.

When the magi came, they went straight to the palace looking for the king of the Jews.

Yeshua knew who He was, and early on He already knew the Torah because we know He's

confounding those in Jerusalem. They're saying who is this child? Who is He? His parents left Him, and He said,

"Listen didn't you know that I would be about my Father's business. Why are y'all looking for me? Why are you all upset? You should have known exactly where I was.

Why? They should have. That's what He said, I didn't write that.

**Deuteronomy 17:19 "...He shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear YeHoVaH his Elohim, to keep all the words of this law and the statutes, to do them:"**

So, this is a direct Command of the Almighty that whatever king sits on the throne, is not only going to have a copy of these words, but they're going to do what? Do them! Now you can have a copy of the word and not do what the word says.

**Deuteronomy 17:20 "That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."**

So, what did David violate? It's there.

**Exodus 20:13-14 "Thou shalt not kill. 14. Thou shalt not commit adultery."**

So, if David had done what David was supposed to do and I believe David did it; when David is

confronted by the Prophet, he knows exactly what he's done. Did he not know it before he did it?

Knowing right and doing right is not always the same thing. We may know the right thing to do, but we may not always do the right thing, because sometimes doing what is right means denying ourselves.

David knew that she was Uriah's wife, but he wanted her. Now David had plenty of wives. You see these people who talk about all these multiple wives. It doesn't matter, the moment you start adding wives you're going to want more wives, because you're never satisfied. You got one wife, now you got two wives, now you got three wives, now you got four wives, now you got five wives. If one is not good enough for you then ten isn't going to be good enough for you. Fifteen won't be good enough for you. Because you'll always want what you don't have. And there'll always be somebody prettier in your sight. No matter how beautiful our wives are, their beauty is in our hearts, in our eyes.

Now listen, our wives aren't stupid. No matter how pretty our wives are, our wives will see someone that they think is prettier than them. But we can't. Don't go there. Don't go there or you will be in a heap of trouble, boy. See, wives can say that, but we can't.

Now David knew; not only was this written it was written early on. This Commandment, I mean if David is going to write the Torah, these are among the first ones that he would write.

**Exodus 20:13,14,17 13. "Do not murder."**

But what did David do? He murdered.

#### **14. "Do not commit adultery."**

What did David do? He committed adultery.

**17. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."**

What did David do? He coveted his neighbor's wife. He committed adultery with the wife that he coveted of his neighbor. Then he murdered his neighbor so he could keep his wife. All of this David did. And when the Prophet came to him there was no denying it.

So, he says,

**Psalms 51:4-5 "Against thee, thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. 5. Behold I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."**

Now when you get to Psalms 51:5, he says,

**Psalms 51:5 "Behold I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."**

And the question becomes what in the world is David talking about? What David is saying is the reason why the way I am is because of the environment I grew up in and probably even surrounding the fact of how I got here.

Now if you were born out of wedlock and as holy as some of you all are, now we ain't always been that holy. Some of us were doing our thing before we came into the Word. Some of us continue to do our thing and I specifically say 'thang' because I want to put a little twang to 'thang'. Some of us continue to do our thang even after we've come into the knowledge of YeHoVaH. Some of us even now contemplate doing our thang, and know better. But it doesn't stop us from thinking about it. David has some legitimate excuses to point the finger at why he did the things that he did because of the things that we're going on in his life. Let's look at them.

David has some issues growing up, he believed he was conceived in sin, a bastard. So, what is he saying, "in my mother's womb and in sin did my mother conceive me"? It is believed he was a bastard child. What does that mean? That means that there are words that are circulating that David's mother ... and notice David's mother is never mentioned anywhere in the Bible. We have no idea who his mother is, we know his so-called daddy.

David said there are some circumstances surrounding my birth I don't even know. I know my mother, but I'm not sure who my daddy is. But look at what he says, because Psalms 69 gives us insight. The Prophet Samuel invites the Elders of Bethlehem, and Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice. But I need to read the Psalm to you.

David writes,

**Psalms 69:1-3 "1 Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul. 2. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into**

**deep waters, where the floods overflow me. 3. I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: ..."**

Now, you can search this out, but no scholar on the planet knows the circumstances surrounding this Psalm. They don't know if David is writing this when he's the king or if David is writing this before he was king. No idea, or even if David wrote it, but it says to us it is a Psalms of David though some question whether this is David's Psalm.

David is saying here is I'm so tired of crying. I've cried so much, I'm tired of crying.

**Psalms 69:3-4 "3. I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God. 4. They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away."**

David is accused of stealing things, is accused of being a thief. He's had to repay stuff that he never stole, never took. He says,

**Psalms 69:5-7 "5. O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee. 6. Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel. 7. Because for thy sake I have borne reproach..."**

Now David had a love for the Almighty, but he had this love for the Almighty long before he was ever King. It was that love that caused the Almighty to choose him.

**Psalms 69:7-8 “7. Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face. 8. I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.”**

What is he saying? Even my mother's children; he's not saying my father's children, he is saying my mother's children. So, he mentions his mother, but we don't know who his mother is. And yet there are some theories and there is some extra-biblical material out there that suggests some things that I can't prove, so I'm not going to bring it into the message. But one thing's for sure, David is saying that my brothers have an issue with me. Matter of fact, I'm an alien among them, they don't even treat me right. They treat me like I'm a stranger.

**Psalms 69:9-10 “9. For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me. 10. When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach.”**

He says I cried out, I fasted and people made fun of me. But get this one: they that sit in the gate speak against me.

**Psalms 69:11-12 “11. I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them. 12 They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards.”**

The elders in the gate are saying things. Jesse was an elder at the gate. We are going to find this out. We're going to see this because when we started

looking at this stuff, David's Psalms all of a sudden begin to make more sense to us. He says,

"the elders at the gate speak against me."

They that sit at the gate, he doesn't call them the elders, but we know who sits at the gates. Then he says this,

"...and I was the song of the drunks".

The drunks get drunk and start singing about David. David starts to give us some insight on some of this stuff, but he doesn't give us insight on it all.

There are some familiar passages that we can look at. Saul is king. YeHoVaH has turned against Saul, and He has told Saul that he will not be king over Israel and YeHoVaH's Spirit even left him.

YeHoVaH says to Samuel, I want you to go down to Bethlehem there's a fella by the name of Jesse, a Bethlehemite. I want you to go to his house because I've chosen the king from among his sons. The Prophet Samuel invites the elders of Bethlehem. He invites Jesse and his sons to a sacrifice. But for some reason or another, Jesse decides that he's going to exclude David from the invitation.

We looked at 2nd Samuel last week, but I think that David has some legitimate issues here if we look at them.

**1Samuel 16:1-3 1. "And YeHoVaH said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse**



**the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons."**

These are specific words that the Prophet Samuel receives from YeHoVaH.

**1Samuel 16:2 "And Samuel said, How can I go? If Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD."**

Here it is, one of the situations where you have a King on the throne who does not have an issue taking the Prophet's life. This is how wicked Saul is. Samuel says if Saul hears I'm going there to do what you're asking me to do, I'll never make it. Saul, I know Saul. Saul will kill me.

He says, "the LORD says take a heifer with thee and say I am come to sacrifice to the Lord". So, if Saul wants to know why you're going, because Saul kept tabs on everything, if he wants to know where you're going, just tell him you're going down to Bethlehem to make a sacrifice. And, call Jesse. Now he gave him some specific instructions.

**1Samuel 16:3-5 "3. And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee. 4. And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, comest thou peaceably? 5. And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice."**

The elders of this town saw Samuel when he enters into town. They saw the prophet and said

“Whoa, wait a minute! Why are you here? What are you coming here for, are you coming peacefully?”

I hate to think what they would have thought if he said no, fortunately, he said yes.

**1Samuel 16:5-6 “5. And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: (Now here are the instructions) sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. 6. And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, surely the LORD’S anointed is before him.”**

Now get this, He gave the Prophet specific Instructions. The Prophet gave Jesse specific instructions, and as far as the Prophet knows, Jesse has brought all of his sons to the sacrifice. So, the Prophet is looking at them. There's one, there's two, there's three, there's four. And,

“Oh I know surely the hand of the Lord is on that one right there.”

Now, the Almighty has already said to the Prophet,

“Listen I'm going to show you.”

But you know we have a tendency to follow our sight. And this is how a lot of us get in trouble.

“Oh, man she's pretty.”

“Yeah, but she's not the one.”

“Oh man, he's handsome.”

“Yeah, but I don't care.”

“Man look at, oooh! I can work with that.”

That's the way some of these brothers are doing. They want somebody that looks pretty, somebody who is young looking, somebody who makes them look good, somebody who is picturesque, someone who's photogenic. There are brothers when they walk, they want men's heads to turn,

“Yeah, she's with me. You can look, but don't touch. I'm bad. See, see what I got!”

I'm going to tell you something, I've had to deal with situations where men want their wives to dress a certain way. They want them to look a certain way. They want them to turn heads. If you are going to prop your wife up to turn heads then some people are going to turn more than their head, their whole body is going to turn. They aren't just going to look. Do you understand what I'm saying?

So here we find that Samuel the prophet is coming, and he is about to face some situations where he's got the instruction in his head, but his eyes are making decisions.

**1 Samuel 16:6-7 “6. And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. 7.**

**But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."**

Some of you sisters, some of you brothers, the Father is saying to you,

"That's not the one."

"I know, I know, I know, but..."

Then He says,

**1 Samuel 16:7-10 "7. But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. 8. Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. 9. Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. 10. Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these."**

Again and again, he had them parade by the Prophet. Then he had them all go before him, all seven of his sons. Now the Prophet didn't know, but here's what the Prophet knows. The Prophet knows that the Almighty says I'm going to choose from Jesse's sons. So, he looked at all of Jesse's sons.

Jesse says the Prophet obviously is not hearing right and he's not seeing right. So, I want y'all to go before the Prophet again, and they did. Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel again and Samuel said unto Jesse, the Lord hasn't chosen any of these. Now I've looked at all your sons and YeHoVaH says no. He hasn't chosen any of your sons, surely there's some confusion here.

**1 Samuel 16:11-13 “11. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all the children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. 12. And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. 13. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So, Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.”**

Samuel said unto Jessie are these all your children? It could be, as far as Jesse was concerned, these are all my boys. Why would Jesse leave David? Jesse seems to have or to be a man of means who could easily have servants watch the sheep, but for some reason or another and not only this particular situation, it appears that David is the youngest of them. Now there's something about sons. You know, the youngest child regardless of what folks might think of them seems to have somewhat of a hold on the heart of the parents. Unless of course, the son reminds the dad of something that the dad may not want to be reminded of.

See what David said when he was conceived, when my mother conceived me, I was conceived in sin. How can a son be conceived in sin? That's the question. But it appears that David makes the statement that he was conceived in sin and shaped in iniquity. I grew up being rejected and despised. I was an alien, I was treated like a stranger, and the drunks were singing songs about me. The people down at the city gates were talking about me. And now that the Prophet has come and says to my dad, bring all the boys, my own dad leaves me out in the field. I'm not even invited to the sacrifice. Do you think David's got some issues?

Samuel says,

"Wait a minute are these all your children?"

Jesse said there remains yet the youngest, but he's keeping the sheep. He has got the job of watching the animals, we don't invite him to the sacrifice. You see he was despised and rejected.

The stone that the builder rejected became the chief cornerstone. Not only did He become the chief cornerstone, but YeHoVaH said,

"Yeah Jessie, you left the boy out in the field, but let me tell you something Jessie, I have chosen him to rule my people. Not only have I chosen him, but the scepter will never leave his house."

So, it doesn't matter what your daddy or others think about you. They can reject you all they want; they can turn on you all they want. They cannot invite you to the sacrifice, they can give you all the dirty jobs that nobody else wants. But guess what? David had the

biggest heart, the biggest courage of all of them. Because while the Philistines are out there making a mockery of them, David says wait a minute, hold it. How can these uncircumcised Philistines insult my family and insult my Elohim? Even though they rejected David, David never rejected them.

So, you think David had some strongholds, some identity issues? Oftentimes men who have identity issues try to show people how much of a man they are by how many women they have, how many wives they can accumulate, how many notches in their belts. You see David was trying to prove some things.

**1 Samuel 16:11 “And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.”**

We will not sit down; we can't even go on until he shows up. It's like Samuel rebuked him. He says listen, are these all your sons? I said sanctify all the boys.

**1 Samuel 16:12 “And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.”**

You see, the Father already told the Prophet they going to try to deceive you. He didn't say they're going to try to deceive you, but this is what He's saying; I'm going to show you who to anoint and till I show you who to anoint, don't you anoint anyone. The Prophet

was ready to anoint the first one, but he says until I show you who to anoint, don't anoint anyone.

So Jesse parades his sons, then he parades them again. The Prophet is saying neither one of these are them.

You see, when you are chosen, this is the wonderful thing about what you're called to do. **No one can do what you're called to do, but you.** What the Almighty has for you, no one can steal it, no one can take the calling from your life. They can reject the call, they cannot accept the call, but no one can take the call. The only person who can refuse the call is you.

You don't have to worry or concern yourself about what other people think, yet that consumes many of us, what other people think about us. We make decisions that are based on what other people think about us. We let other people govern our decision-making. Other people that want to dictate to us and that we want to please. We don't want people to get angry at us. We don't want people to reject us. So, we make decisions that mom is going to hopefully like, that dad is going to hopefully like and that other people are going to hopefully like.

You feel that if you do make decisions that other people are not going to like then you are a rebel, the black sheep, the bad seed, the demon child, the weird one. Does anybody know what that feels like? And yet, you're chosen. It's like how can you be chosen and have to go through all that mess. To be rejected, despised, alienated, treated like a stranger. Drunk folk singing and laughing, so let me tell you about David.



Long after David was dead people were calling David's name. They called Yeshua, David. Yeshua, son of David! Have mercy on me! You see, Yeshua had a checkered past too, they had a lot in common.

So, it says he was ruddy. He's trying to tell us something, indicating that he was redheaded. Indicating if you look the word up, kind of somewhat like somebody else. A fella by the name of Esau, maybe. A problem child, but you had a beautiful countenance, goodly to look at. He's got this look, but then he's got this look. You noticed that. I can't tell if you good looking or you are ugly. You know some people just confuse you. You look at them from one side and then you look at them from another side and it's like I don't know what to think about you. They just can't define you. See we're not supposed to let other people define us anyway.

**1 Samuel 16:12-14 “12. And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. 13. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. 14. But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.”**

See that? You all may have treated him like a stranger, you may have treated him like an alien, you may have treated him like a half-brother, a reject, a retard. Like his elevator doesn't go all the way to the top floor. But let me tell you what I see. Now you all with your fine stature and your good looks and you know how to woo the Ladies. Let me show you

something, he brought David from hanging out with sheep.

Now imagine you have walked by the prophet, and then you have walked by the prophet again. Surely, I'm the one. David comes in the house and Father says that's him. And right in the midst of all of them, he begins to pour the oil and he anoints him in the midst of his brethren. If that wasn't enough the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.

**1 Samuel 16:13 "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah."**

**Psalms 51:11 "Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."**

See here is another thing that tripped me out. David says,

"Take not your Holy Spirit from me."

How can YeHoVaH take the spirit from David if David doesn't have the spirit? I know we say Spirit comes and it goes. David wasn't saying, please let your Spirit come again, he was saying don't take it! David seems to have gotten comfortable and accustomed to the fact that the Spirit of YeHoVaH was on him.

And get this, it was after the Spirit came upon David, and was on David from that day forward, that David with the Spirit, engaged. It's like what part of the Spirit led David to murder a man, and commit adultery

with his wife? I dare say it wasn't the Spirit. I daresay it was some strongholds, some mindset, some mentality that David had established within his own head, to the point to where he would grieve the Spirit, reject the Spirit, deny the Spirit, quench the Spirit, in order to get with David wanted.

Sometimes we'll grieve the Spirit, deny the Spirit, quench the Spirit, reject the Spirit, just to get what we want. And the Spirit is screaming, it's crying out, don't go there, don't do that, don't say that. Oh, I'm just going to give him a piece of my mind. Don't give them a piece of your mind, it's going to come back and it's going to bite you. It's going to come back and it's going to haunt you. Because once it's out you can't take it back. Once you commit an act you can't uncommit it. Once you say something you can't unsay it. You have to be slow to speak, you have to be quick to hear, quick to listen, slow to anger. Because once you step across the line you can't un-step it. Do you hear what I'm saying?

**1 Samuel 16:13 ... "and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah."**

**Psalms 51:6-11 "6. Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. 7. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. 9. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. 10. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."**

I want to deal with this, but I won't deal with it completely now, but this is what he says in Psalms 51:10-11,

**"10. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."**

Here's what David is saying, my spirit is corrupt, and the spirit of man is corrupt. Because one of the words that he uses here, really says it is not the spirit of man so much as it is the mind. The thoughts, the decision-making faculties that have been established in my life, are corrupted. He says I need the right spirit because the wrong spirit is what caused me to do what I did. The wrong way of thinking is what caused me to do what I did.

You see, YeHoVaH had given David the Torah, but for some reason or another, he laid it aside. He laid aside the Instructions even though he had the Spirit. So, when he cries out to the Almighty, he cries out to the Almighty like, I messed up, I have sinned, I have grieved the Spirit. I know I have grieved you. Create in me a clean heart and renew the right Spirit within me.

There is a connection here because he's saying I'm not thinking right. Have you ever known that you were not thinking right and continued the path that you were on when you knew you weren't thinking right? This is what David did. He says, cast me not away from your presence. You see if I can't come into your presence, I'm in trouble. I might as well take my own, well you know I won't even say that. Because I don't know if suicide ever crossed David's mind. I think he

knew the Almighty well enough to know that if there was any hope or any help, he knew exactly who to turn to. It was David who said there's nowhere I can go to get away from you. I think David knew that even if he took his own life, he would still have to deal with the Almighty. He says if I go to the farthest places on the earth or the deepest places in the sea, wherever I go, you're there. So even suicide is not an option.

Sometimes life has become so unbearable to us, we feel that maybe we should just end it all. But if we knew what David knew, we would come to the same conclusion, that even that is not a viable option. That is just the height of insanity. My mind has gone so far out there, I've allowed my thinking, my thought, my meditation to get so far out of whack that I don't even know how to pull it back in. Now I'm allowing my wacky, stinking thinking to govern my life. He says,

**Psalms 51:10-15 "10. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. 13. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. 14. Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise."**

David knows something that we're trying to get you to know. You see the way you grow stronger in YeHoVaH is when you begin to teach transgressors their way. You begin to teach transgressors about Him.

See, even you've got this word but you're not living this word and you're not sharing this word. This word becomes dusty in your life, and **your thinking** begins to come to the forefront instead of meditating on the **word of YeHoVaH**. It's put on the shelf, it collects dust. We pull it down, dust it off, read it a little bit, then put it back. It is our way of thinking that is governing. David is saying,

“Listen, if you would do this for me, what I should have been doing in the first place because I wrote the Law, I knew the Law, I broke the Law, give me another chance. And if you give me another chance, I know what I need to do. I need to teach transgressors your ways. And I need to be out there trying to get sinners to turn their hearts to you.”

You see this is the great commission David had. If you just restore me, if you just let me hold on to your spirit, if you just create in me a clean heart, if you just get my spirit right, if you just restore my joy and uphold me in your hand with your Spirit, I will teach transgressors your ways and sinners shall be converted unto you.

**Psalms 51:14-16 “14. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.”**

I will not be ashamed to praise you. I will not be ashamed to tell people about you. I will not be ashamed to show a transgressor the wrong that they are in. I will not be ashamed to tell a sinner to turn from their sin, to turn from their unrighteousness, and turn toward the GOD of creation. Because my lips will

forever praise you, Your words will forever be on my lips, and I will praise you forever. That's what David is saying.

**“16. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.”**

Now the Torah says if you do certain things that you bring a sacrifice. But David knew something, David knew something. He did. He says if a sacrifice would get this out of me and I would be back in right-standing with you, I would surely give you the whole herd, I would give you the whole flock. No one had as many oxen and bulls and rams and goats as David had access to. But he said if that's what you wanted, I would have given it to you.

That is not what you wanted. You sent the Prophet to me. You could have killed me. You could have destroyed me. But because You loved me, you sent the Prophet to me, to tell me that I was wrong for what I did, and I acknowledged it. I acknowledged my transgressions, and my sins I can't shake them. I try to go to sleep and I'm having nightmares. I think in the day about the stuff I've done, I think about the wrong I've done, I think about the people that I've hurt, I think about the man that I killed, I think about the woman that I slept with, and how I got her.

If a sacrifice can rid me of this, I'd give it to you in a heartbeat, but that's not what you are looking for. You're looking for a change of heart, a broken spirit. You are looking for a strong man to humble himself and realize that as strong as he may be or think that he is, no one is stronger than You, I know I deserve death,

but you're full of mercy. There's a multitude of mercy, you are the God of mercy.

And David could write about it, he says your mercy is new every morning. Your faithfulness is great, oh it is great. What you're looking for is not a sacrifice.

See this is what Paul is talking about in Romans. He's saying listen, we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. This is what David says and you're not looking for the blood of rams, bulls, and goats. You're looking for someone who is going to give you their all.

How are you going to renew your mind? I'm going to renew my mind just like the king was supposed to get his mind renewed. He's supposed to write out the Torah, remember to keep what is in there, to do according to what is written. Just like Joshua, you will be prosperous, your way will be prosperous, your children will be prosperous, your children's children will be prosperous. But if you don't, prosperity is not coming to your house. As a matter of fact, the opposite will come to you and **it's not His doing, it's our own doing.**

**Psalms 51:17 "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."**

Here's what David is saying, he's saying listen, the sacrifice of God is a broken spirit. Let me explain what this broken Spirit is. A broken spirit and a contrite heart are what YeHoVaH is looking for; He will not despise. He wants our heart. And then He wants to take out the old one and put a new one in its place. I'm closing right here. Because of what he is saying in this next slide, this is the close.



It's two things.

**The Spirit, rûwach {roo'-akh רוח} Meaning: 1) wind, breath, mind, spirit.**

The spirit of course is the wind, the breath, but it is also the mind. And the breaking, the broken,

**shâbar, {shaw-bar' שִׁבַּר} Meaning: 1) to break, break in pieces.**

What he wants to break in pieces is He wants our heart. He wants to crush it. See, what causes us to quench the Spirit is our spirit. He wants us at a place where His Spirit quenches our spirit. Not where our spirit quenches Him, but that His Spirit in us quenches our spirit when we desire to do something that is going to grieve His Spirit. Then He says to you, this whole idea He wants to crush.

But one of the things that I want you to see is

**1c3) temper, anger 1c4) impatience, patience.**

Because this is our spirit, not the Holy Spirit. Our spirit - this is where wars come from. It's where, you know, we get angry and we sin. When we know we have a right to get angry, but not to war in our anger. He is speaking of when you lose your temper, when you get angry to the point where it makes your environment volatile. When you become impatient, when you lose patience with others, you got a spirit or disposition, with bitter, discontent, uncountable, uncontrollable impulses. These are all things that many of us struggle with, have struggled with, probably

don't struggle with as much, but the thing is that Father is saying to each one of us that He wants us, as David says, what He's looking for. And the person who is responsible for giving Him what He's looking for; the one who must crush, the one who has to break our spirit - is us.

This is exactly what Paul is saying, you have the responsibility to present your body as a living sacrifice. You must get up on that altar, not come down from the altar but get on the altar. You are the one who's got to deal with your temper, with your anger, with your impulses, with your lack of accountability, the stuff that's in your heart, even though you know it's wrong.

Because once you allow him to deal with you; we would prefer he deals with the world around us first, but He says no, judgment starts with you. We first have to get the beam out, we first have to deal with the moat in our eye. We first have to deal with the attitude issues. We first have to deal with the spirit, with the heart, with the mind, the stuff that's in us.

Because no matter what the Father does, he can clean your whole environment. He can make everybody around you submit to your will and you know what that'll do to you? It will make you a tyrant. You'll feel that now people, that the world, revolves around you. Whether you know it or not, some of you already think that. No one can tell you anything. No one can tell you what to do, where to go. And you say yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, and go on and do whatever it is you want to do.

You are going to have to deal with the issues in your heart so that the Father doesn't have to. Because He says in His Word, that if you judge you, if you

properly judge yourself, there will be no need for you to be judged. You have to judge your own actions. You have to judge your own thoughts, you have to judge your own motives.

You have to even evaluate your reasonings. Why do you think the way you think? Why do you feel the way you feel? How come you're angry? Why are you angry? How is it that you get angry at something somebody else says? Anger is a response that is yours. It's your response. No one can make you mad, no one can make you angry, no one can make you do anything. You will tell us that. And yet when you do stuff you say, they made me angry. Did they or did you choose to get angry? Did you choose to fly off? Did you choose not to restrain your temper?

Those are your choices, Ladies and Gentlemen. No matter what the world around you does, how you respond to them, it's your choice.

## Notes

[illegible]

## **Pulling Down Strongholds**

### **Part Three**

I hope you got something to write with and something to write on because we are about to go on a marathon in the Word. I mean pulling down strongholds. This is Part 3. We are going to look at the foundational Scripture for what we are dealing with here.

**2 Corinthians 10:1-3 “1. Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent, am bold toward you: 2. But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh.”**

If we can get the Believers to know this; though we are human beings, our weapons are not human weapons. There's an authority, a power in the Spirit that you and I have that is not parallel to anything on the earth. I'm telling you, when you know, and embrace who you are, you will become a powerful force that can transform whatever environment you go into. You see, Yeshua, the Bible says, that when He went into certain places those spirits that were manifest there, they had been there the entire time.

It doesn't bother me spiritually. Now I must say it does bother me humanely. When people get aggressive and begin to attack me, what's interesting is that people don't attack me from a Word perspective. They attack me in other areas.

I use 'Christ'. Well, you know, 'Christ' is in the King James Bible that I read from. I use 'Jesus'. I say, 'the LORD'. I dress like a Pentecostal preacher. Listen, before Pentecostalism ever was on the planet, people dressed nice.

You don't dress like a Messianic, you don't use enough Hebrew. I mean, you want to come at me like that, that's okay, you see. But when it comes down to the Word, that's where we should be judging people. And what I mean by judging them, I'm not talking about judging under condemnation, but judging to see if that which they are speaking is from the Almighty.

You have people who say, listen, you shouldn't be judging. Well, wait a minute, the Bible says, if there's going to be prophecy, let one or two speak and let others, judge. The whole gifting of discernment is discerning the spirit that is on what you are saying. That means that if I'm going to exercise the Spirit or gift of discernment, I have to make some judgments. If I'm going to test the Spirit by which you operate in, I have to do some judging.

If you're saying some stuff that doesn't align with the Scripture, how am I going to know that if I don't judge what you're saying? So, I'm supposed to judge. I'm not to pass judgment unless, of course, I'm in a court of law.

In the Bible, when the Believers come together and there is a dispute among them, there's a time when we have to judge. Paul writes to us and says you all take your matters to the court systems, the human secular court, when you should be bringing your matter among the Believers. Aren't there some spiritual people among you who have the ability to judge a

matter? Why are you taking your stuff down there to those secular judges? They're not going to judge according to the Word. So, you have people who don't want you to judge, while judging.

Listen, we aren't backing down. You can call us a cult and you know what I'll say?

"Yes, we are."

Now I know that's a bad word for some people, but every religious system out there is a cult. Anybody who's listening to anybody who has any system is a cult. So back up off of that.

"Well, you're legalistic."

"You darn right I'm legalistic! **The Book of the Law is a legal book. Covenants are legal.** You cannot be in the Bible and not be legalistic."

So, you're not going to back us up off of using languages to try to demonize.

"Oh, do you think you're holy?"

"Yes, I do; we are called to be holy."

"Oh, do you think you're holier than thou?"

"Well, if you're not operating in the Word, yes, I am holier than thou."

You have to flip the script. Stop letting the world back you up. Listen, the Bible says that a natural-minded man cannot understand spiritual things. If you're going to walk by the spirit, walk in the spirit, you

will not be understood by the world. In order for you to be understood by the world, you have to operate on a world mentality. And you don't want to do that because that makes you worldly.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-6 “3. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) 5. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Messiah. 6. And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”**

Now next week, as I said we're going to be talking about strongholds and how to free ourselves from them so that we can actually be free indeed. And that's what you want, you want to be free indeed.

Today we're going to talk about how strongholds develop and what you can do to avoid strongholds from being developed in your life. You can avoid strongholds from being developed. The word we note as stronghold is the word,

**(3794) ὀχύρωμα - okh-oo'-ro-mah; from a remote derivative of (2192 (meaning to fortify, through the idea of holding safely); a castle (figurative argument): - stronghold.**

An argument. So, additional meanings of this word are,

**1) a castle, stronghold, or fortress 2) anything on which one relies 2a) of the arguments**



**and reasonings by which a disputant endeavors to fortify his or her opinion and defend it against his opponent. Origin: from a remote derivative of 2192 (meaning to fortify, through the idea of holding safely).**

Strongholds, as we talked about, are very dangerous because they cause us to operate in areas that are opposed to YeHoVaH to satisfy the will of the flesh or of our carnal nature. Strongholds will develop a system, and these are excuses or reasonings of justification or a department of defense to maintain its operation and to advance grounds within, in order to have a lifetime habitation.

And so, many of the ideas that you hold firm to are the results of tried and tested systems. Because over the course of our lives, we made adjustments in our thinking, to the point to where you know this is just the way I am. You hear people say well, you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Why can't you teach an old dog new tricks? Because the old dog has developed strongholds and that's just the way the old dog is. The old dog is not willing to change, you understand.

When a stronghold has been developed, we do whatever we need to do to protect and defend our reasonings or irrational desires.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “3. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) 5. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”**

**2506. καθαίρεσις; kathairesis {kath-ah'-ee-res-is}, Meaning: 1) a pulling down, destruction, demolition.**

Pulling down is actually demolishing, that's what it means to demolish. To pull down a stronghold, one first must acknowledge a stronghold has been developed and this is tough for some people. I remember, and those of you who have gone through any form of rehabilitation, for me it was really a rehabilitation from the use of cocaine and alcohol and going through a rehabilitation center and learning the tools that are important to maintain one's freedom. One of the things that they taught is that, if you're ever an addict, you're always an addict. Shortly after becoming born again, as I understood it, I had to denounce that idea. There are still many who say, well, you know, if you're an addict, you're always an addict.

There is a commercial on now that, if you've ever had chickenpox or measles or something, the shingles virus is inside you. If you've ever had chickenpox, the shingles virus is inside you. Really? So, you know anybody who has chickenpox after you hear those words what do you think?

“Oh, the shingle virus is inside me.”

So, you're making a confession, inviting shingles into your life, based on what a commercial said. Do you understand what I'm saying? The shingles virus is inside me. So, every time you look around, you see a little patch – ooh, it must be shingles! Seek your physician, ask them if this medication is right for you. Now, never mind the fact that it's going to cause your nose to bleed, you might go blind, you'll

lose your hearing in one ear, you become suicidal; forget all that! Just talk to your Doctor.

But that's what it's come down to Ladies and Gentlemen. And we're making decisions not even realizing that many of the decisions that we're making are based on what we hear other people say to us because most people trust the professionals.

The reason why modern-day deliverance is only temporary ... How many of you have ever gone through some form of deliverance? How many of you have ever been to a Deliverance Ministry?

One of the things that I learned early on because I was part of a ministry that before the service they would bring out all these Kentucky Fried Chicken buckets. You know, the big buckets, the KFC's or they get some plastic buckets from the dollar store and there would be buckets lined up all along the altar and people would come up and they start casting demons out expecting people to break wind, to cry, to spit, to throw up and all this kind of stuff. Anybody ever been to that degree? Really, you all ain't been in a bucket church?

Aw, man. We got one! Oh yes, they bring the buckets out man. You going to throw up, you going to spit up if nothing else you going to cough something up. Otherwise, you still got that demon, and they tell him – come out, come out! They're calling him out; high-pitched sounds, shrieking sounds.

One lady, I won't mention her name, she was a professional deliverance minister and her claim to fame was that shriek. I am guessing that she was into vibrations or something. The only thing the demons respond to is that sound and folks trying to mimic her.

Anyway, there's a lot of shrieking going on in that place. But they would have the buckets and people would line up and once you got rid of one demon, you had more demons. And next week, they had another deliverance service and pretty soon the pastor and all the elders are constantly coming up for deliverance. I realized why they kept coming up for deliverance was because as soon as they come up for deliverance, they went back to some of the stuff that they were doing, and now they needed to be delivered again.

But the reason modern-day deliverance is only temporary is because it deals with the symptoms and not the root. But people say they're dealing with the root and they get into inner healing. It almost always goes back to your relationship with your dad. You must have had a bad relationship with your father. I'm telling you, it's almost impossible to go through any form of deliverance without it coming back to you and your dad's relationship because this is for all the sins of the father.

I'm also amazed how Deliverance Ministry dances around the Torah, uses the Torah, but doesn't apply the Torah. So, it masks the root by addressing generational curses, inner healing, but never deals with the real root and we're going to look at that. You see, we can focus on the deliverance needed or we can focus on **why** deliverance is needed.

You can say, the person needs deliverance and the question is why? Why is it that someone needs deliverance? And why is it that people tend to always need deliverance from something or another?

As we're talking about strongholds, you're going to see deliverance is needed because of strongholds, because of bondage, because of captivity or slavery.

You'll find that when Israel came out of Egypt, they brought Egypt with them. When people came out of slavery, they brought slavery with them. Every immigrant who has come to this country has brought their nationality, their culture, their traditions, and their beliefs with them. And, it causes individuals to create enclaves where they try to preserve their culture. They try to preserve their traditions within the enclave that they move into.

Well, it's the same thing the South. The South had traditions of slavery where you have whites, and you have Black people, and you have a community where the Black people live over here and the whites live over there. The Hispanics weren't allowed, they were migrant workers. you hear them in the woods, somewhere.

This is what's going on folks. And then, Asians begin to come in and now you have an Asian Community. You have Chinatown, you have Germantown, you have Italian town, you have Jew town. And then it shows up in the church because you have the Black church, you have the white church, you have the Hispanic Church, you have the Asian Church, you have the Jewish Synagogue. And throughout the culture, these strongholds and these traditions are continually protected and are to be maintained and preserved for the generations to come and anyone who rebelled against these traditions is rebellious.

There's something going on in the Earth today. There's a big case out in California where they're

talking about measles. And they are finally acknowledging that the whole, vast of the nation of human beings is a herd mentality. And that the only way this thing is going to work is that all the people buy into it. It's a herd mindset. And so now you got folks who don't want to be vaccinated, fighting with people or people who have their children vaccinated, fighting with people whose children are not being vaccinated.

So, now some people have broken away from the herd. And as a result of this herd mindset, the government has to step in and try to bring some order and legitimacy, where at some point, they're going to want to try to force everyone to follow the herd. It's coming. Well, this has been going on for a long, long, long time.

There are strongholds that have been developed in us because of this whole herd mindset, that was literally ushered in through the Constitution. When you begin to talk about and think about how we as a people operate and think, there are two entities on the earth that has governed thought. The first institution was the religious institution. Because when religion came to this country, religion came to this country to escape tyranny or the people came to this country to escape tyranny, but they brought their religion with them. And so now we're going to create this document to declare our independence. The Declaration of Independence. And then there was this idea based on something Thomas, Jefferson wrote, concerning putting a wall or hedge between the church and state. So, the idea of a separation of church and state was instituted.

Now understand something, that one way of getting morals instituted in this nation is through

government. The government decides what is legal and what is illegal, what is moral and what is immoral. The other institution is the church.

So, you've got the church and the state that are looking at two different documents. The church is identifying morality and immorality from the Bible; the government is establishing immorality and morality from the Constitution by its interpretation to establish laws to govern the people of the nation. So, at some point government says, it's illegal for you to have sex with your donkey and they write a law. And then people gather together and say, do you know what, I don't like that law. So, let's set at repealing it, like Obamacare. We're going to make it our job to repeal the law, so, if I want to have sex with my donkey, I can have sex with my donkey.

Listen, the children don't need to cover their ears because this is serious. If I want to have sex with my donkey and we get enough people in this democratic society to picket, to march, to demonstrate to lobby, then we get Congress to pass a law or abolish that law. They don't make a law that it's okay for you to have sex with your donkey. They just abolish the law that says you can't.

Now the Word says it's wrong, but the government says it's okay. So now, if the government says it's okay, then the voice of the church, **the voice of the religious people can become silent if the government is really running things**. Because if a religious institution, that is getting its identity from the government, through its organizational papers, wants to maintain its tax exemption status, they now get a little quiet because they don't want to draw attention from the government; the eye of the government that

comes in and threatens to take away their tax exemption.

I'm going to tell you how strongholds have been developed. I know this seems so far off from you. Alcohol – illegal; now, it's legal. The only last bastion, there's one state that I'm aware of in the United States, and that is in Lancaster, South Carolina, that they still have the Sunday blue law. It's one of the last bastions. In every state that I know of unless, you know of a state that I'm not aware of, you can buy alcohol on Sunday. When it used to be, you couldn't even buy alcohol period. Prohibition. Now, alcohol is able to be purchased.

Marijuana used to be taboo, it used to be illegal, but now certain states have decided that it's no longer taboo and it's legal and that's going to spread across the country. Homosexuality. You see all of these things that the Bible talks about when Congress, the Constitution and those who are making laws are establishing law or they are taking what used to be laws off the books by instituting new laws.

Now, our society and its moral compass are being established by those in Washington. Well, how did that come down to you and me? The bottom line is that when the government says it's legal, the argument that you and I have had about it being illegal is no longer valid. There are people who have been trying to argue religious values from a government legal perspective. Well, now that argument is gone.

I can't tell my son that he can't smoke marijuana if he's in Colorado. I can't tell him it's illegal. That's the reason you shouldn't, you'll go to jail. No, he won't, not anymore.



And once a person gets up to a certain age, they can drink. People can do the things that they want to do. Well, that's the mindset that people have established and therefore, "it's my right". Because the government has given me this right.

Those who follow YeHoVaH look to this Book of the Law. Those who are of this world look to the law of the world. So, you got politics that are writing law and you got YeHoVaH who is the Creator of all things who has given us Law.

Now when the politics write law ... here's what's happened, religious people have identified, because I was on this track, that if you want to make a difference in your community, then you now have to petition your representatives, you have to petition your congressman, you might even have to write a letter to the President of the United States.

Well, if we want to have a greater impact, what we have to do is start telling the people in our churches, you need to think about serving and being a servant in your community, in the political arena. You need to start running for offices, you need to get involved in government.

And so, the politicians start coming to the churches and so just as you got the two-house in Washington; you got the Senate and the House of Representatives, you got two houses in churches. The main two houses are not Judah and Ephraim – it's Republican and Democrat Christians. So, you got Republicans who are conservative, Democrats, who are liberal, all sitting in the same place. Politicians come in, preach to him, minister to him, get him out to

the polls to vote. So, they can vote. And pretty soon what you have is people trying to legislate morality instead of preaching what thus saith YeHoVaH.

Take it to another extreme. If we can get the church to conclude that the Law of God is no longer valid, now you've just thrown the moral compass out of the window. So now our churches are full of young progressives. We got a generation who's coming to church and all they want to do is sing songs and sing Kumbaya and go to camps. That's what they want to do, go to camps, have meetings, play games. Don't preach to me about sin.

So, the megachurch arises, and you got people who are teaching grace. We're not under the Law; grace brother, grace. God is a God of love; His mercy endures forever. We're saved by grace. And pretty soon, morality goes out the window. There is no morality happening today!

We have megachurch ministers: Jakes, Dollar, Myers, all these individuals who are now preaching, you don't even have to keep the Ten Commandments. That's what's happening. And it's filtering into the Messianic communities because Messianics are too busy trying to look Jewish. Let me get to some Word. Now, I've been preaching all the time, I just haven't given you Scripture, but let me give you some Scripture. Cause someone's going to ask when are you going to read from the Bible? Let me get to the Bible.

**Luke 4:16-18 “16. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. 17. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias.**

**And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, 18. The Spirit of The Lord is upon me. because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives...”**

To preach deliverance to the captives! Now these words in themselves say that Yeshua has a mission to preach deliverance to the captives. He came to His own. What He is saying, is that Judah, at this point and beyond, Judah is in captivity. Now, those of us who know our Bible, we know that Judah was under Roman rule. Is that right or not? Did they have the right to institute law? Did the Jewish people have a right to institute law? Could they even carry out their own law? No, they couldn't. Now I want you to see this because this is important for you to pay attention to. They couldn't even institute the death penalty without approval. Okay, so he came, Luke 4:18 ...

**“... to preach deliverance to the captives, the recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.”**

Now this word that we use here is the word,

**859 ἄφεσις (aphesis) {af'-es-is} Meaning: 1) release from bondage or imprisonment 2) forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty.**

And then the word captives here is,

**164. αἰχμάλωτος; aichmalōtos {aheekh-mal-o-tos'} Meaning: 1) a captive properly a prisoner of war, (generally), a person who is captive.**

Now, he wasn't talking about emptying out the jails. The deliverance that he was bringing, as it was interpreted by some, the deliverance of the captives was dealing with a mindset. That's what He's dealing with. He's dealing with a mindset and you're going to see this mindset play out.

**Luke 4:19-21 “19. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”**

What is He saying? The Deliverer has come, the Deliverer is here. For those of you who want to be delivered, deliverance is right now at hand. While speaking to some who believed in Him, Yeshua said in John Chapter 8,

**“30. As he spake these words, many believed on him.”**

Get that, many believed in him!

**John 8:31 “Then said Yeshua to those Jews which believed on him ...”**

So, who is he talking to? He's not just talking to Jewish people; He's talking to Jews who believed. These are Jewish believers that He's talking to. Why? Because it says that He,

**“...to those Jews which believed on him ...”**

Now, let that percolate.

**John 8:31 “Then said Yeshua to those Jews which believed on him, if you continue in my Word...”**

If you continue. You believe, now you need to continue. See, **this ain't no ‘once saved, always saved’**. He's saying you believed on me, but ...

**“...if you continue in my Word, then are you my disciples indeed.”**

So there were those who believed in Him who chose not to be Disciples because He'd already said earlier in John Chapter 6 that many of His Disciples followed Him no more after He preached a certain sermon.

**John 8:32-33 “32. And you shall know the truth...”**

You see it's the Disciples, it's not the Believers. He says, if you continue in my word,

**“You will know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”**

Now, look at what they said.

**John 8:33 “They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man..”**

Now you're under Roman rule! How can you make these statements?

Let me tell you something. There's a mindset among people, especially young people. People will tell you; they think for themselves.

No, you don't. You think, you think for yourself. You don't think for yourself, you've been trained to think. You've created systems of thought, based on your experiences in life. And when you get in this environment, you think a certain way and when you get into another environment you think another way.

I never understood it until it was pointed out to me; I didn't even know I was doing it. I get around a person who had a foreign accent, I started talking differently. Still speak English, but trying to talk in a way that hopefully, they would understand. Have you ever talked to a person who had a heavy accent and you found yourself talking with an accent? Has it ever happened to anybody in here but me? Come on.

**John 8:33 “We be Abraham's seed. We were never in bondage to any man: how say you, you shall be made free?”**

Basically, they're saying that they're free. Now Yeshua said I've come to set the captives free, indicating that they are not free, knowing that they're under Roman rule. They can't even crucify Him without Roman authority approval.

**John 8:34-37 “34. Yeshua answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35. And the servant abideth not in the house forever: but the**

**Son abideth ever. 36. If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."**

And then look at this, he acknowledged the fact.

**"37. I know that you are Abraham's seed..."**

Did he say they weren't? No. He says,

**"I know that you are Abraham's seed; but you seek to kill me..."**

Now, who is He talking to? He's talking to them that believed in Him. Let's not lose the context, He's talking to them that believed in Him. He says, I know who you are, you believe in Me, but you need to understand belief, it's not enough, you must continue in My word, then you will be My Disciple, and then you will know the truth, and then you will be set free if you continue in my word.

Belief is not enough. You have Believers who are in bondage, people who claim to be filled with the Holy Ghost in bondage. I know you're Abraham's seed; not denying that ...

**John 8:37 "...but you seek to kill me".**

Why?

**"Because my word has no place in you."**

All you do is believe. Who is He talking to? Them that believe on Him. He says, yeah, you believe in Me, you believe on Me, but you won't let the words, that I'm speaking, in you.

You have people who believe in the man Jesus. But see, the man is the Word that became flesh. That's who the man is. The man is the Word, which was with YeHoVaH in the beginning.

And so, you got people who believe on Him, but won't allow His word in them. And this is key because you can tell me what you want to tell me, but if the Word is in you, that's how we know you are a Disciple. Because the Word is in you, the Word is going to govern your life, you're going to live your life according to the Word that's in you. You're going to live your life according to the Word that is in you. So, people who are claiming to be Believers, who are living their lives contrary to the Word, are an indication that they believe on Him, but the Word is not in them. Because you will live your life according to the Word that is in you.

He says my Word has no place in you. Who is He talking to? He is talking to them that believe on him. But it gets deeper.

**John 8:38 “I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and you do that which you have seen with your father.”**

Oh, it's about to get ugly. You say we're brothers, but we got two different fathers. **When Yeshua says My brothers, My sisters, they are those who do the will of My Father.** See, just because you claim to be a Jew, just because you claim to be a Believer, your works will tell me who your daddy is. You will know them by their fruit, not by their confession. Too many people watching confessions and testimonies. See, it's good to get to have a testimony, but let's look at your life. Does your testimony align itself with your life?



Now, when people talk about their testimony, they died and went to heaven, and they saw all kinds of wonderful things in heaven. You know, that's a testimony, you can't prove. You can't judge that testimony because I can't say you didn't die, and you didn't go to heaven, and you didn't see the things that you say you saw. I can't say that, can't say you haven't seen the Lord. But I know this, everybody that I read about that has seen Him, there is a transformation in them. He says:

**John 8:38-39 “38. ... you do that which you have seen with your father. 39. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Yeshua said unto them, If...”**

Now, what did He say? He says I know that you are Abraham's seed; I'm not denying that you are descendants of Abraham. You see there are men who have children who are not fathers. They're just an sperm donor, if you would. They donated some sperm, and a child became the result of the sperm that was donated.

You see, a father is different than a man who has children because that father is going to be looking out for the best interest of those children and making sure that those children have everything that they need in order for them to grow up in an environment where it's safe, where they are protected, where they can be nourished, where they will flourish, and that they become good citizens in society. A father is a responsibility; anybody can be a dad. Any man can be a dad, but a father is something totally different than somebody who gave sperm.

He says if you were Abraham's children, see there's a difference between being a seed and a child. He's saying, I know you are seeds of Abraham. In other words, you came from the line of Abraham, but you're not looking to Abraham as your example, you're looking to something else. You're looking at Tupac, Biggie Smalls, or ... those are old school; whoever the new school people are today. You got your favorite rapper, that's your daddy. Why? Because you're trying to imitate him, you're trying to be like them.

How are you going to be like **them** and claim to be of **Him**? This is exactly what these hypocrites are doing. Oh, I'm slamming today and I ain't taking no prisoners.

**John 8:39 “...If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham.”**

So how are we going to know you're Abraham's children? By your works! How are we going to know you're children of the Almighty? By your works!

You can tell me what you want to tell me. I'm not denying your daddy is who you say he is. But who's your Father? Who's your Father?

You see, for a long time, I was T.C. Bailey's boy. That's who I was. Oh, that's T.C.'S boy. Oh, that's T.C.'s, boy. But at some point, I had to make a decision that now I had to take on the identity of my Father who is in heaven because my earthly father was a drunk. Nice man loved him. But he was an alcoholic, he was a gambler, he was a wife-beater, he was a whoremonger. He liked hanging out in bars and getting drunk and gambling and chasing women.

And until I denounced that father, that's exactly what I had become. Now I find myself in a drug rehabilitation center, trying to get delivered from alcohol, from drugs, from whoremongering. And the only deliverance for me was to denounce that father and embrace this Father. So now, T.C. Bailey is not my father, he's, my dad. Before he was my father, but now he's just my dad, see. My Father is in heaven. Where's your father? Who's your father?

Yeshua says listen,

"I'm doing the will of my Father, who's will are you doing? Oh, I can tell by what I see; you're doing the will of your father."

**John 8:40-41 "40. But now you seek to kill me, a man that has told you the truth which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.**

Abraham didn't do that.

**41. You do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication..."**

What are they saying? They are saying,

"We know you're a bastard. We know that Joseph is not your daddy. We know that your mama went somewhere and got pregnant. We know you talking about that immaculate conception, ain't no such thing as an immaculate conception. Your mama was a whore."

That's what they said, let's just break it down. That's what they said. You can nice it up and you can

theologically exegete and dispute, but that's exactly what they're saying.

**John 8:41 “...We be not born of fornication; we have one father, even God.”**

“Now, wait a minute, you said Abraham is your father, now you're saying God is your father.”

And then He says,

“Listen, y'all confused.”

**John 8:42 “Yeshua said unto them, If God were your Father, you would love me...”**

He said what? If Abraham was your father, you would do the works of Abraham (John 8:39).

**John 8:42-43 “42...If God were your Father, you would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43. Why do you not understand my speech? Even because you cannot hear my word.”**

Not only was the Word not in them, but they didn't even have ears to hear.

**John 8:44 “Ye are of your father, the devil...”**

“To make a long story short: I know who my father is; you think you know who your father is but let me tell you who your daddy is. Your father is the devil. How do I know that? Because of the works you're doing.”

**John 8:44 “...and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer...”**

He's calling them out.

“You've been trying to kill me. Why? Because your dad is a murderer.”

**John 8:44 “...He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaks of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it.”**

Let's jump over to first John.

**1 John 2:3-4 “3. And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep his Commandments. 4. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”**

What about these people who talk about “I love God”, but reject His Commandments? These are the same folks Yeshua was talking to. Oh, I know you, I know your daddy. I know you come from this family, and you come from that family and you're part of that denomination. But let's look at your works. You see, Satan is the father of lies; of lies. If you say you love Me and you don't keep My commandments, what does that make you? That makes you a liar. Who's your daddy? Who's your daddy? I know it stings, but I'm not making this stuff up, I'm just putting it all together.

Satan was the father of lies and those who say they love God and don't keep His Commandments is a liar. And Satan is the father of lies and those who say

they love God and don't keep His Commandments is a liar. So, who are they following? The same Satan that the religious people of Yeshua's day were following, with their religious institutions.

Y'all ready to turn a corner? Cuz I'm about ready to turn the corner up in here.

**1 John 2:5 “But whosoever keepeth His word in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”**

When Solomon had completed the temple, he prayed and afterward, had a visitation from the Almighty.

**2 Chronicles 6:36-39 “36. If they sin against thee, (for there is no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before their enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near; 37. Yet if they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly; 38. If they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers; and toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house, which I have built for thy name: 39. Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee.”**

This prayer, that Solomon prayed has been interpreted by some men to mean, praying toward the East. Now he never said, pray toward the East, but what he did say: if you pray toward this land if you pray toward this city, which you have chosen, toward the house which I have built.

So, how does that interpret praying to the East? Because a lot of Messianics every Sabbath, every time they gather and it's hard ... I'm sitting in a large gathering and everybody that's praying is turning toward the East and, now you got that herd mentality. How do you not turn toward the East when everybody is turning toward the East and they looking at you? That's the time to exit the stage left! If I'd seen it coming, I never would have been in there in the first place. I would have waited till after the prayer.

What I can't get are these individuals who swear you're supposed to pray toward the East, they pray congregationally. And then when they're done praying congregationally and they want to have a prayer before they deliver the Word, they don't pray toward the East! And then after they've delivered the Word, they want to bless the people and pronounce the benediction, why don't y'all just turn toward the East? Do you understand what I'm saying? You're going to pray; then when you pray: then pray toward the East. How is it that some prayers are toward the East and other prayers don't have to be prayed toward the East? That's hypocrisy.

But I got one for you. What if Jerusalem is toward the North? Or the South? Do you understand what I'm saying? What are you going to do now? See. Now you know, with the world being round, you know, you could turn this way and you know, eventually, your prayers just go around. You know, you're turning this

way, but your prayers are going this way. It's like, wait a minute, why don't you just turn that way?

But the point is, that's not what he's saying here. But let's look. Now I'm going to tell you among Christians, this is one of the most famous passages in the Bible that we're about to look at.

**2 Chronicles 7:1 “Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.”**

**2 Chronicles 7:8 “Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.”**

Here we see that they kept the feast seven days. He kept the feast seven days and all Israel with him.

**2 Chronicles 7:1 “Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.”**

**2 Chronicles 7:8-9 “8. Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt. 9. And on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for they had kept the dedication of the altar seven days and the feast seven days.”**



On the eighth day, they held a sacred assembly. So, they observed the dedication of the altar seven days and the feast seven days. So, there's seven days that they observed the dedication of the altar, and then there was an additional seven days that they observe the feasts, and then on the eighth day, they had a sacred assembly. Can anybody tell me what Feast that is? That's Sukkot; that's exactly what it is. That's Sukkot. Solomon is celebrating Sukkot for seven days, and the last great day, Shemini Atzeret, which is the Eighth Day of sacred assembly after they celebrated Hanukkah, which is the dedication of the altar.

Now, I know people have made Hanukkah to be from the Maccabees. That was a Hanukkah where they rededicated the altar. The first Hanukkah was when they dedicated the altar for the Tabernacle. The second Hanukkah is when Solomon dedicated the altar at the Temple. The third Hanukkah is when they rededicated the altar after the Maccabean War. But let's look at this. They did the dedication.

**2 Chronicles 7:10-12 “10. And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had shown unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people. 11. Thus Solomon finished the house of YeHoVaH, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of YeHoVaH, and in his own house, he prosperously effected. 12. And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard your prayer...”**

Now Solomon says some specific prayers. Let's go back to it because this is what he said. He says,

**2 Chronicles 6:36 “If they sin against thee, (for there is no man with sinneth not) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before their enemies...”**

So, what is Solomon saying? He's saying, for the people to go into captivity, YeHoVaH must send them. Now, this is important Ladies and Gentlemen. See, you can't go into captivity, you can't go into bondage unless the Almighty sends you or allows you, which is really one and the same. Every bondage, every captivity you go into, the way of thinking, is a stronghold, all of it. You have been allowed to formulate your own thinking, your own way of seeing things and doing things, while at the same time, the Word of YeHoVaH is coming at you.

But the question is, are you allowing the Word to come in you? Are you simply a Believer in the Almighty or are you allowing His Word to reside in you which is going to transform you? Which is going to cause you now to live out your life according to the Word so that when people see you, they now know that your life is reflective of the Word because they see the Word alive in you.

Or are you just a Believer? See, there's a lot of Believers who don't have the Word in them. And **the thing that keeps you from going into bondage in the first place is the Word of YeHoVaH.** This is important because I'm going to tell you something, you can get delivered and the Word is still not in you and you're going back into bondage. You can get delivered and the Word not be in you, and guess what? You're going back into bondage; you're going back into captivity.

And what causes a person to continue to do what they have been doing, even though they've been delivered; it's a way of thinking, it's a way of thinking. There has to be a change in the way you think if there's going to be a change in how you live. I can look at how you live and tell you how you think. Because whatsoever is in a man's heart or whatsoever a man thinketh, so is he. You're going to live how you believe. You can tell me what you believe in, but you'll show me what you believe. I'll see what you believe by how you live. You can't hide that. You can tell me anything. So, he says,

**2 Chronicles 6:36 "...If you be angry with them and deliver them over before their enemies, and they carry them away..."**

You see, once you get delivered into your enemy, you become your enemy's property. There are people who claim to be YeHoVaH's property, but they're actually the property of their enemy because they've given place to their enemy. They've compromised, they made a truce, they've allowed their enemy ground, the enemy takes them captive. You become a slave, you're in bondage. And so, He says,

"I've heard your prayers."

**2 Chronicles 7:12-13 "12. And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I've heard your prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice. Now, 13. If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts..."**

Who's shutting up heaven? The devil can't shut heaven. The devil has no control over the locusts. Now I know the locusts might look like demons, but the devil has no control over the locusts, he has no control over the rain, he has no control over the pestilence. He says,

**2 Chronicles 7:13 “If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people.”**

Why would you do that, YeHoVaH? Why would you shut up the heavens? Why would you send pestilence? If the locusts devour the land, the crops are not going to make it. The animals that depend on the crops are going to die. The people who depend on the animals and the crops are going to die. How could you allow that? You see, this has caused some people to say, I can't believe in a GOD like that. Really? Like you got a choice. Yes, you do for a period. Because whether you believe now or later, and I'm not talking about the candy, you will believe at some point because every knee will bow, every tongue will confess. You won't have a choice in that hour, but you do have a choice right now. He says,

**2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people, which are called by my name...”**

Now, let's get it straight. Who are the people? The ones that are called by His name. How are they going to be called by His name? The Priests were responsible for putting the name of YeHoVaH on the people every time they pronounced the blessing. May YeHoVaH bless you, may YeHoVaH keep you, may YeHoVaH cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. This is putting the name of YeHoVaH

on His people over and over and over and over, and over and over, to remind the people who they belong to. You are the property of the Almighty, your life.

Now, people make these confessions; well, my life is not my own. Oh yeah? Well, what are you doing up in the bar? Are you in there sharing the good news? Why are you at that concert? YeHoVaH is not being glorified. I'm thankful for the sake of some people that the Super Bowl is not on Shabbat. Really. You will have a lot of backsliding Messianics. It would be a big mess, seriously. Because you got some devout Christians who going to backslide tomorrow. They're going to skip church because it's the Super Bowl. The national religion for the sports fanatic, which is the high holy day of holy days. They've been preparing for this, just like people prepare to go up to Jerusalem. All year long, looking as to who they going to worship. And, you know, I never made a connection, I never made a connection. See, the Bible says that we are to lift up holy hands. You know, I'm watching some of these concerts and they're not singing about Jesus, they're not singing about Yeshua, they're not singing about YeHoVaH, and you got people going (waving upheld hands back and forth). It's like what are you all doing. You see that's a posture of worship, Ladies and Gentlemen. Who are you lifting your hands up, too? Their idols. Their American Idols. Oh, so you think you can dance. Ladies and Gentlemen, the world is getting more and more perverted every day. Seriously, it is getting so outrageously perverted to where it has come out of the closet and the Believers have gone in.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face...”**

First, they have to humble themselves, then they have to pray. Now, you can pray without seeking His face. Now I lay me down to sleep, pray the Lord, my soul to keep. If I die before I wake, I pray the Lord, my soul, to take, Amein. Did you just seek the face of the Almighty or did you just pray?

Father, I ask your blessings upon this food, may it be nourishment in my body. May you cleanse it of all impurities in Yeshua's name, in Jesus' name, Amein. See, people can pray, but there's a difference between praying and seeking His face.

So, He says, if you humble yourselves, one; pray, two; seek my face, three. And here's the kicker, you got to do some repenting. You got to do some repenting. What are you repenting from? Your wicked ways. What do you mean, your wicked ways?

I'm going to tell you something, Ladies, and Gentlemen. There's a lot of fornicating Christians, a lot of them, talking about I love the Lord. Well, who are you sleeping with? Well, we engaged. Are you married? No, but we engaged. Are you married? Are you married? And you know, you got families; families, you know your daughter, you know your son out there fornicating, you know, it. You tell them about it, and it just goes in one ear and out the other. And you embrace them like they ain't fornicating because that's your baby. Talking about you keep the Law. That ain't law-abiding right there. Do you understand what I'm saying, Ladies and Gentlemen?

There are times when the Word says you got to cut some people off. Well, that's my baby! Well, you ain't dedicated that boy or that girl to the Almighty. That's your baby, not His; it's your baby, not His.

Because when you dedicate that child to Him, then you are committed to training that child up the way they should go. And if they don't want to live according to what you have trained them up, they should be ashamed to come around you. And you should not make it easy for them. Your presence should bring conviction just like the presence of the Almighty should. And if you compromise because it's your baby, don't think for a moment the Almighty is going to compromise with you.

I know it's hard. I know it's hard, Ladies and Gentlemen. But he didn't call this to be easy, because, after all, it is Him who's taking them into bondage, it's Him who's taking them into captivity, it's Him who sent the locusts to devour the land. I'm going to tell you something if you got somebody in your house, that's going to cause the locusts to come, then guess what? You will suffer the consequences of the locusts just like that hard-headed son or daughter you're harboring. You're harboring a criminal; not in man's law.

I know this is not pretty, but it wasn't meant to be pretty. YeHoVaH didn't make allowances for you and me. He is holding you and I according to His Word and said,

“I am no respecter of person. Don't you think for a moment just because you say you love Me that I'm going to overlook your wrongdoings.”

Now, there is a responsibility. There is a responsibility that you and I both have; our role is to teach them. But before you can teach them, you have to believe it. And if you believe it, you're going to walk in it. And if you walk in it, because you believe it, anybody who comes into your presence is going to be

convicted, because of your belief in which you are walking. So, they're not going to bring foolishness to your house, unless you allow it, unless you compromise unless you permit it.

Father is calling us to a higher standard. That's what He's calling us to. This is not for the faint at heart, it's not for the weak, it's not for the folks who want to play church, it's not for the folks who want to believe, but not do, because this is going to call all of us out. He says then if you ...

**2 Chronicles 7:14 "...humble yourselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways..."**

Any one of us who has been in any prayer meeting, in any church, for any period of time has heard somebody pray this prayer. And the majority of the people that we've heard pray these prayers are not turning from their wicked ways. So, **they expect the Almighty to heal their lands without them repenting.**

That's the prayer, which is an indication they're not seeking His face, they're just praying. You got people who will pray, but they won't seek the face of the Almighty, because when you seek the face of the Almighty, guess what? He shows up. And one of the first things He does when He shows up is to show you your wickedness. That's what He does for me.

Every time I get in His presence, he's not talking to me about my wife. I can't remember once. I do remember that I'm talking to him about my wife and He's talking to me about what I need to do to get her



back. But it's what I need to do, not what she needs to do. Do you get it?

He's always dealing with you about what you need to do. Because if you will do what you're supposed to do, He will honor you in your obedience to Him. He can bring about change; my wife wanted nothing to do with me.

I had preachers, ministers, elders, deacons telling me,

“Man, you might as well give it up because she’s done with you. You done messed up so bad and I don’t blame her for not wanting you back.”

I didn't even know anything about the horns of the altar, but I grabbed ahold of something. I grabbed ahold of His toe, a toenail or something. Listen; and see, I can tell you, I've seen the Almighty turn hard hearts. I've seen it. He holds the hearts of men and women in His hand. It wasn't about me trying to tell my wife how wicked she was, how she wasn't submitting to my authority.

She didn't care about that, she really didn't.

“What authority? You ain't got no authority here. I got a restraining order, I'm the authority here. Your authority is over there. Now, go on back over there because you don't belong; don't make me call the police because they'll come and take you to jail.”

That's the way it was. So, I had to grab ahold of Him over at my house to get Him to deal with her over there at His house and her house and trust that He was doing it. And I'll tell you, by sight, it didn't look like He

was doing it. But I remember the day the sun came out and there was a glimpse; maybe He is over there doing something.

Are you hearing me, Ladies, and Gentlemen? Father knows how to bring about change. He can take the hearts, He can harden the heart, He can soften the heart. But what He's asking you to do is, that every one of us should be, looking about how we can find favor in the eyes of the Almighty.

Remember the Prophets? You know, they would simply say, if I have found favor. See, that's when you get to the negotiating table. Let me tell you something, **you can negotiate with YeHoVaH**. But it's not going to be based on you not being willing to live according to His Commands.

When you align yourself with the Commands of the Almighty, you can go into His presence, and you can ask Him if I found favor in your sight. Now, I'm doing what you're telling me to do. I'm examining my life. You're showing me where my wrongs are, where my faults are. If I find favor. See, this is where you can begin to talk about the desires of your heart. You've delighted yourself in Him, you're meditating on His Commands, His Laws, you're living according to what you believe, what He's telling you to believe in. And you're petitioning Him, you know, I'm looking for favor. Every one of us should be looking for favor in His sight.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 “... then will I hear from heaven...”** Then when **“they humble themselves and pray and seek my face, repent, turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven...”**

Now what I'm dealing with here, first of all, Ladies, and Gentlemen, is what you need to know. One, not to go into bondage. And if you've gone into bondage, what you need to do when He delivers you from bondage. See, when we talk about the house being swept and garnished, when the strongman has been put out, when those spirits have been driven out and they're going through dry, arid places and they're looking for rest. And when they come back, they find that house swept and garnished.

To this day, we've got all kinds of revelations of what that means. Filled with the Holy Spirit, how many of you have ever seen people speaking in tongues, filled with the Holy Spirit, fall short of the glory. Find themselves in sinful conditions, sinful practices. Do you hear what I'm saying? Just because you are filled with the Holy Spirit ... Understand this, the Holy Spirit will reveal the mind of YeHoVaH, your spirit reveals your mind. And therefore, when the Holy Spirit comes in, there is a fight going on for this territory. This is your land. This is the land that needs to be healed. So, the Holy Spirit comes in and He's got to deal with you. This is what Paul talks about in Romans when he says there's a war going on in my members. The good that I want to do is not what I find myself doing; the stuff that I don't even want to do is what I find myself doing and I find that there's a war going on in my members where I would do good, evil is always present.

So, I find myself in the same predicament as Cain. I must master sin. I must master me. And the only way I'm going to be able to do that is to totally submit myself to His will and embrace the freedom that He's given me in keeping His Commandments.

**2 Chronicles 7:15-16 “15. Now mine eyes shall be open, and my ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. 16. For now, I have chosen and sanctified this house...”**

You never get to this part of the prayer in the church. You never get to this. You hear: If my people who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, then will I hear from heaven. Wait a minute, you left out that other part: **And turn from their wicked ways**, then will I hear from heaven and heal their land, forgive their sins and heal their land. That's about it.

But guess what? Don't shut Him off, YeHoVaH is still talking. He didn't give the benediction, He's still talking. Now, He says, My eyes shall be open. And what land is He talking about? He's not talking about America. Now, there are people who are trying to make America the promised land, make America the New Jerusalem, make America the apple of God's eye. It ain't happening. You can read about the Harbinger all you want. It ain't happening. **America is not the Promised Land**. YeHoVaH is not going to touch down in America when Yeshua comes. He's not going to build His Temple in New York. He's going to be the Temple in the new city, the New Jerusalem. Are you hearing me, Ladies, and Gentlemen? You can say this is a Christian Nation, you can say all this. Well, we're the only allies of the Jewish people. So what?

**2 Chronicles 7:16 “For now, have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever: and my eyes and my heart shall be there perpetually.”** Where? That's my house.

**2 Chronicles 7:17-20 “17. And as for thee, (let's deal with you Solomon.) if you will walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments; 18. Then will I establish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have come covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler (In America?) in Israel. 19. But if you turn away, and forsake my statutes (Now I love you, but if you turn away and forsake my statutes) and my Commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; 20. Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of thy land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and I will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations.”**

Now, what is He saying? I'm going to destroy this house. I'm going to take the people and I'm going to cast them out of the land. And this house, this elaborate place that you built for my name, that I put my name on; it's coming down. Now, that's exactly what happened to Solomon's Temple. The people were carried away into Babylon.

They came out of Babylon, built Zerubbabel's Temple, and the people begin to worship idols and embrace paganism, so much so to where they allowed Antiochus to come in and defile the place. Now, there's a need to be rededicated. And after that, the Hasmonean dynasty ended, and the Herodian dynasty began, and Herod built the Temple that was in the land when Yeshua was there.

And one day, while He was leaving, He said every brick, every stone, there will not be one stone left upon another. Today, we have the Wailing Wall. The Wailing Wall is a sign of what used to be. It is the “by word”. That's hard for some people to embrace. But the fact of the matter is, YeHoVaH allowed, not only did He allow, but He called Babylon.

“Listen, my people have gone into idolatry, and I told them what I was going to do when they did that. Get them, take them away. They wouldn't observe my Sabbaths, they wouldn't let the land rest, they wouldn't keep my statues. Take them away and have them serve your gods. Hopefully, they'll make a distinction between who is God.”

Who is the real God? May the real YeHoVaH show up? They cried and He delivered. And guess what? Bam, back into captivity! And now Yeshua is coming to the remnant, to the seed of Abraham, who is not serving the Almighty. He said the Word is not in you, your daddy is the devil. You've established a system of religion and He ain't in it.

And the Disciples,

“Look at how beautiful this place is.”

“Yes, but it's not going to last.”

Why? Because some people want to say well, because He didn't want Temple worship, He didn't want Temple service. Let me tell you something. There will, according to prophecy, be another one. But from the first one, because we don't see YeHoVaH putting His name on the second one or the third one. He did

put His name on one. And that was out of respect for David, out of respect for Abraham.

But today He says,

**2 Chronicles 7:20-21 “20. ...I'll cast you out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations. 21. And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to everyone that passes by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?”**

They call it the Wailing Wall because people are wailing at it. They're wailing and they're crying out to YeHoVaH while at the same time, refusing to let Yeshua in the land. Not only is Yeshua not welcome there, but anyone who confesses Yeshua is not welcome there, except these Christian tourists who want to bring in millions and millions and millions of dollars to prop up the economy. That's what's going on; it's tourism.

The Holy Land ain't Holy. But people have fallen in love with the concept and ignoring the Word. The only thing that is going to change that land, is YeHoVaH Almighty, when the people who are called by His name, humble themselves and pray and seek His face and turn from their wicked ways.

Judaism is not the religion of the Bible; Judaism is the religion of the Jews. YeHoVaH is not in Judaism. I don't care what anybody says to you. Yeshua says beware of the leaven, beware of the teachings of the Pharisees and the Sadducee for that is Judaism. How can you deny people returning to the land? Because they say they believe in Yeshua. And how can you

support a system that rejects Yeshua, but allow Christ, who rejects the law to come up and set up camp? See, Christ can come in, but Yeshua can't.

And on Thursday, this brother Kenny was ministering. I'm sitting there, realizing that I'd allowed a stronghold to be established.

Let me finish this.

**2 Chronicles 7:21 “And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to everyone that passes by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?”**

Who did it? YeHoVaH did it. Why would you let, listen, let somebody come into your house and destroy it? America nor Israel; Israel now has one of the most powerful, actually one of the most powerful armies in the Middle East. Hasn't always been that way, but it does now. And you've got, you know, its enemies, who don't know what to do. Because it's not, it's not that YeHoVaH is trying to protect the Jewish people as much as He is protecting His land.

In order for Him to protect His land, He had to get His people out of it. He says you all have defiled the land; the land is an abomination; you're allowing every detestable thing to go on in the land. You're not letting the land rest; I'm going to send you all into Babylon, so the land can get some rest. That's His land. And He's not going to allow someone to come in and take the land, but He will allow someone to come in and take the people. And He has done it and He's still doing it.



But the land is His, the Earth is His, and they that dwell in. Babylon belongs to YeHoVaH, Rome belongs to YeHoVaH, Greece belongs to YeHoVaH, Assyria belongs to YeHoVaH, Iraq/Iran belongs to YeHoVaH. They are His ministers. We don't like to hear it, but it's the truth. **He has used these anti-God people to discipline His people.** He brought Babylon in, He brought Assyria in, He sent them to Egypt and delivered them out of Egypt. He allowed Rome to come in. Do you understand what I'm saying, Ladies and Gentlemen? It's His land. And it's the apple of his eye. And He's not going to allow anybody to do whatever they want to do. But He's always teaching His people, a lesson.

**Here's the lesson, keep My Commandments and live.** Keep My Commandments and enjoy peace. Keep My Commandments and stay protected. Keep My Commandments and live a life that I'm going to watch over, provide for you and take care of you. If you don't, then I got news for you. I'm going to show you the difference between a Holy God and the unholy one. I am the only Wise One there is, and you shall not have any other before me and yet people in their ignorance put other gods before Him when He says don't do it. He says,

**2 Chronicles 7:21-22 “21. And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to everyone that passes by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house? 22. And it shall be answered, (Here is the answer; this is why He allowed it to happen.) Because they forsook YeHoVaH Elohim of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold of other gods, and**

**worshipped them, and served them: therefore, He has brought all this evil upon them."**

Who brought the evil on them? YeHoVaH did. And you can't bless what He ain't blessed. You can't change what He ain't changed. Just as He has protected, covered, delivered, and sent them to bondage, He's the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Our job is to get on His side. And whoever is on His side; just like Moses said, those of you who are on the Lord's side, you all stand over here. We will make a distinction between those of you who are with YeHoVaH and those of you who are playing lip service, just stand over here. This is exactly what's going on right now, Ladies and Gentlemen. YeHoVaH's judgment is on the earth and it's going to begin where? With His people.

He always deals with His people first. You see, He didn't give Satan or the serpent Instructions, He gave Mr. and Mrs. Adam HIS Instructions. And it seems to have gone down like this, He first dealt with Mr. Adam and then He dealt with Mrs. Adam, and then He dealt with the serpent. It was the serpent who beguiled the woman, so it seems like the serpent would have been judged first. But YeHoVaH is always dealing with His people regardless of what the world is out there doing because, His people should know better, because they have His Word, but the world doesn't.

Our responsibility is to get the Word to the world. I can't judge the world that doesn't have My Word, which is why I've commissioned you to get the Word to the world so that I can judge the world when it's time. But let me tell you this, even when the Word gets to the world, judgment is going to start in His house.

On Thursday, I was sitting there as Brother Kenny was ministering. And prior to him ministering here, we had a lengthy conversation on the telephone as he was sharing with me about things that are not only happening in the land of Israel but also the things that are happening in Messianic communities around the country. Now, Kenny does extensive traveling. He is an international person, and he does a lot of travel, and he sees a lot of things. And I believe Father has given him a unique perspective on how to see, and in cases, how to address. But one of the things that was said, and those of you, you can see that several weeks ago, the Prime Minister of Israel made a declaration, and he said that his whole mission was to make Israel a Jewish state.

It is not the will of YeHoVaH for Israel to be a Jewish state. That is not His will. The fact that they're trying to make the land of Israel, a Jewish state is an oxymoron. Because the fact of it is, is that you can't make Israel Jewish. Only Judah, Judah is only one tribe. You can't take the land that the Almighty has given to the twelve tribes of Israel and let one tribe hog it all, now YeHoVaH has to deal with that. So, you got a Prime Minister who says that his mission in life is to make Israel a Jewish State, and within a few days of that declaration, the entire Knesset crumbled.

Now, for those of you who want to watch prophecy, because you do have people who want to put, you know, whatever happens in America is because of America's response to Israel. Why don't you judge that? The government crumbled and forced new elections. Where does that find its way in Biblical prophecy?

“Now, don't touch that brother; you can't talk about Israel, that's the Jewish people, that's God's people.”

Listen, I'm as much God's people, you are as much God's people as anybody over there in that land. And that's where my conviction came. Because I personally have become so frustrated with the fact that if I or any of you want to make Aliyah to go there and live, you would have to denounce Messiah. You would literally have to reject the Messiah in whom you have put your hope, in order to go to the land that you and I have been vowed by the Almighty to inherit. That land is as much as my land as any Jew. That would be like your parents dying and your sister or your brother taking all the land, all the inheritance, and not giving you anything.

And this is the kind of stuff that has happened over the course of history, which has caused fighting between Ephraim and Judah, and Simeon and Judah and all of the tribes, they have fought among themselves. Even at war with each other, because of one tribe trying to usurp authority over another tribe when YeHoVaH equally divided the land among all the tribes; with the exception of Levi, who was supposed to be YeHoVaH's inheritance.

These strongholds have been carefully articulated and manipulated and fortified in the mind of people that today, you have people who claim to love YeHoVaH, who say that they must support Israel. What Israel are you supporting? What are you supporting? Because if you're talking about a land that rejects the Messiah and the people who claim to be of Messiah, then what are you supporting? You're supporting an anti-Messiah government, which is no better than the

government of this United States. But we're supposed to love Israel. Well, who is Israel? See, just because someone confessed to being a Jew outwardly, doesn't make them one inwardly.

This is not a message against Jews or Judaism. You can twist it, you can bend it however you want, but that's not what this is about. The conviction in my heart is that I have as much right, as a representative of the Kingdom, for citizenship in that land. Who is the Knesset to deny me right to that, which my Elohim says I am supposed to inherit? What gives these individuals the right to take my birthright? I've been born into the kingdom, I have as much right as anyone else. But it wasn't them taking my birthright; it was me forfeiting my birthright. That's where I got convicted. That I just forfeited my birthright because of what I've seen with my eyes. There are people who are there that don't look anything like me and it's not a black or white, thing. But when you begin to look at Biblical prophecy, you'll begin to see some things. Things that right now, I have to be careful of how I even communicate because I'm already labeled. But the day is coming, the day is coming. Because we have to call things out because you got talking heads running around the country, selling a bill of goods that is just as anti, counterfeit; I mean it is counterfeit to the max. And you have people who are buying their books and perpetuating their doctrines, trying to make America God's country.

But you and I, if we believe what the Bible says, and this is the thing, Ladies, and Gentlemen, we can believe in God and not believe the word. Are you grafted in or not? Hello? Are you? So, what are you grafted into? You are grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel. You are now our fellow citizens if you believe the Word. You are a fellow citizen. Oh, is that just

spiritual so you can go to heaven? No, **you have as much right to the promises that YeHoVaH gave to Abraham as anyone else.** This is why He boldly declared that there is one Torah, not two. You can call yourself a goy, you can call yourself a Gentile, you can call yourself whatever you want, but the fact of the matter is, what has He called you? That's where the distinction comes in. Do you believe His Word, or do you believe what you believe? Because He says that you are now grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel, you are no longer an alien, you're no longer a foreigner, you are a fellow citizen. You have as much right to this land as anyone else has to this land. And who has the authority and the right to tell you, you can't have what YeHoVaH said is yours? Who's got that authority?

But if they could get into our heads, if the propaganda can get into your head and convince you. Oh, I'm not Jewish, so? So what? Neither is Simeon, neither is Dan, neither is Ephraim. Neither is any of the tribes other than Judah. Even Benjamin is not Jewish, they're Benjamites. Do you understand what I'm saying? So, we've allowed words to twist our thinking and these words have created strongholds in our minds to cause us to see ourselves as people of the Book, but disconnected from the Book, claiming the promises, but not embracing the promises and therefore rejecting our birthrights. That's what the Almighty said,

“Boy, you done rejected your birthright. Don't do that, don't be like Esau, don't be like him.”

So how can I be like Esau? Esau gave up his birthright for some soup, what are you getting out of the deal?

And I'm sitting there thinking, wow, I have as much right. Now, the Gospel becomes even clearer, because we are going to bring them the same message Yeshua came to bring; the same message that Peter, James and John, and the Apostles came to bring. To a people who have a system of religion that have allowed their religion to be their religion, and the religion is simply to fortify the Jewish religion or the homeland of the Jews.

See, Judaism is not about serving the Almighty, it is a system that is designed and developed to keep the Jews in harmony with one another no matter where they are. And don't confuse Zionism with Biblical Zion. Zionism is a political system, it is not Biblical, at least not the Zionism that is there in the land. Zionism's sole mission is to establish a homeland for the Jews. And by establishing a homeland for the Jews, that means that those who do not convert to Judaism will not have the right to the land that YeHoVaH said is ours. And I know it's tough. It's all right.

Strongholds. These things go so deep. So deep sometimes we don't even know how deep they've gotten. And before you know it, we see religion and the Word through these religious systems that cause us by default, to not believe what the Word clearly says we are to believe. And therefore, we become religious people, not Believers, believing in him, but not believing his Word.

Every time He shows me an area where I'm not necessarily believing, my job is to repent. But I also realize, that where He shows me that, He also is dealing with others. And where He's not dealing with others, as one who has a voice for Him, it's my responsibility to tell people what He is saying, and what He is saying to me. And if it resonates with you then

there's a good chance, He's speaking to you if it doesn't, you can reject it. Just act like I haven't said anything this whole time, that's up to you. But what I dare you at, is don't just discount it.

I wanted to and we won't get into it, but I want you to get into it because this is so important. I was going to read Deuteronomy 28, verses 15 through 68. I've chosen not to do it because we are out of time, but I need you to read it. I did a teaching on the **28 Blessings of Deuteronomy 28** because I did not want to go into the curse side of Deuteronomy 28. But it is important that we don't simply read Deuteronomy 28, 1 through 14. Deuteronomy 28, 15 through 68, deals with the curses and the curses are those things that are associated with the violation of the Law.

This is the futility and the vanity of those who are seeking worldly fame. Because in order to accomplish worldly fame, in order to become famous, in order to become rich and famous, one believes that they have to abandon the Commandments of God. They believe that they cannot play by His rules and be successful, but the only way you're going to truly be successful is to play by His rules. Because what does it profit a man to gain the whole world only to lose his soul? What's the point in having all kinds of money and you got to ride around in a bulletproof car? What's the point? What's the point in having all these resources and you got to be afraid of somebody kidnapping your son, kidnapping your daughter, breaking into your home, kidnapping you, and ransoming you because of your stuff. What's the point of having all this stuff and can't sleep at night? What's the point?

See, people don't think about these things while they're in the pursuit of the stuff, but once they get the



stuff, they realize the stuff doesn't fulfill them. Stuff will never fulfill you. **Only YeHoVaH can give you the ability to enjoy the stuff you've worked for.** Because if He doesn't give you the ability to enjoy it, you just got a bunch of stuff. And I know people who have lots of stuff; two or three airplanes. How many airplanes do you think you can be in at one time? How many cars do you think you can drive at one time? How many houses do you think you can live in at once? How many rooms? Hallelujah, somebody. So please read Deuteronomy 28, verses 15 through 68.

Last week, I was told that we broke a previous record, and I looked at the numbers, I was standing here for five hours and 36 minutes last week, but I don't plan on doing that today, I really don't. But the way I'm going, it looks like... it's not going to happen. So, what I'm going to do now is again, I want to encourage you to read Deuteronomy, chapter 28, verses 15 through 68, it's important. It's important that you read this because when YeHoVaH said to the Children of Israel, He says,

“Listen, everything in the earth is mine. I'm going to give it all to you, but here's what you have to do to keep it. You will have to watch yourselves; you will have to keep My Commandments; you will have to do what I tell you to do and then you will prosper in the land.”

It's the same thing. The reason why I laid this out the way I did today is that next week, we're going to get into how to receive deliverance from strongholds, we're going to go right into it, but if you have to understand what I just shared with you today. Because the Children of Israel were delivered, only to be taken

back into bondage. And what took them into bondage? The Almighty delivered them into bondage.

What makes you and I think we're any different? Just as He delivered His people into bondage, He will deliver you and I, and Deuteronomy is a measuring, if you would, of which side of the Commandments you're on. You should look at Deuteronomy 28, 1 through 14. Are you living there? And you should look at Deuteronomy 28, 15 through 68. Are you living there? Is there a mixture? Where are you? Because you need to know. And once you know, now you can begin to see where you might need some adjustments, which is why it's important for us to understand His Commandments.

So please read it. That's your assignment for this week. You can say, well, I don't know what to read. Well, I have just told you, Deuteronomy 28, 15 through 68. And once you get through it, go back to Deuteronomy 28 verse 1 and read the whole chapter again.

And I pray and hope that some of you, because I imagine while we were going through this, you would begin to see things that will hopefully convince you to deal with some of the areas and issues in your life that you have procrastinated in dealing with.

You see the beauty of YeHoVaH, is that before He delivered His people into bondage, He always gave them warnings, even though He had clearly given them His Word. But before He acted on His word to bring the captivity and to deliver them into bondage, He raised up Prophets. He raised up individuals, sent them to the people, and gave them space to get it right. These messages are Him giving us space to get it right. Now you can choose to get it right or you can choose not to

get it right. But let me tell you something, **He gives us all the opportunity to get it right because He's merciful.**

He doesn't want to see you in bondage, He doesn't want to see you in captivity, He doesn't want to see you allowing strongholds to keep you out of the promises that He has ordained for you to walk in. He wants you to be prosperous, He wants you to be blessed, He wants you to be whole. That's why Yeshua came - to make us whole. That means in every area of our lives, He wants you to be whole. He doesn't want you to be broke, busted, and disgusted. He doesn't want you to be sick, He doesn't want you to be bound, He doesn't want you to be in bondage, He doesn't want you to be in debt.

He wants you to be a lender and not a borrower, above only, not beneath. Blessed going in, blessed, coming out. He wants you to be blessed in every area of your life. And if anything in your psyche is saying anything else other than that to you, there's a stronghold.

He wants you to be in health and prosper. When we did the teaching on true Biblical Prosperity, one of the things we identified is your prosperity and my prosperity is going to look different. You may only want a Fiat and a two-bedroom house on a corner lot. And if that's prosperity for you, all the power of YeHoVaH be upon you. But don't let somebody else's idea of prosperity determine your idea of prosperity. Because you got people that say, "they don't need all that". That ain't your business. Do you have what you need? That's what you should be focusing on. Amein? And leave other people alone.

## Notes

[illegible]

## **Pulling Down Strongholds**

### **Part Four**

I am so convinced that Father wants to do some supernatural maneuvering and rearranging in our lives today. I tell you this ... last night I came inside after spending time in the presence of Father and sharing with my wife, the message. I got it, the message.

Then this morning, He starts adding to it and since then He continues to add to it. And so, I'm going to do my best to get through all of these slides, but most importantly to yield to Him and allow Him to move freely in the midst of us. One of the challenges that I think we all face, I know I have, and I can only speak for myself, is controlled environments.

Trying to create controlled environments; an environment where things work the way we like them to work. And you know, how many of you have ever had someone try to control you? Let me see your hands. How does it feel? Out of the mouths of babes, even the children know trying to control another person or being under control is very difficult. And yet, Father tells us that one of the fruits of the Spirit is self-control. Self-control.

And we of all people want to be free of control, but how many of you know that if you don't operate in self-control, you will find yourself uncontrollable. No one can tell you anything. And society seems to help mold and shape us with that mindset. I know by being in a relationship, and I think some of you who are in a relationship can attest to the fact that there are so many wonderful things we like about our spouse, our husband, our wife, our boyfriend, or girlfriend, those of you who are in that situation, and yet, the moment we

say, “I do” it seems we immediately go to work on changing the other person and the issues about them that we don't like that much. And yet, we ourselves don't want to be controlled by anybody.

I think it's human nature to resist control. I think it's human nature to reject control and yet this is exactly what the Almighty wants to do, especially with the giving of His Spirit. **His Spirit is here to help us to control ourselves.**

Second Corinthians Chapter 10 is where we've been looking at the foundation for the teaching on **Pulling Down Strongholds**, and I just want to read this, and then we're going to move on, and we're going to move quickly here today. So, fasten your seatbelt.

**2 Corinthians 10:1-4 “1. Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Messiah, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: 2. But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. 3. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh; 4. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.)”**

To the pulling down of strongholds. That's what we're going to be talking about today.

**2 Corinthians 10:5-6 “5. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of**

**Messiah; 6. And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”**

Now, Paul is saying something here that really can easily escape us. In a sense, you remember what Yeshua says, that before you can actually tell your brother to take the moat out of his eye, you first have to take the beam out of your eye. Paul is saying, before we can correct those individuals who are really outside, we first have to get those who are inside to begin operating in a state of obedience.

In this particular message, we're going to be talking about how to free ourselves from strongholds, and the Bible says that you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. **Unfortunately, too many people are not willing to do what it takes to be free of strongholds and will learn to cope with them throughout life, making unsustainable minor adjustments from time to time.**

We find ourselves in situations where we know we need to change, but at the same time, we get comfortable where we are. And so, we'll make a change, we'll make an adjustment. The reason why diets don't work is because it's not a change of mind, it's for the purpose sometimes of simply trying to shed a few pounds. **There are many things that we do in life, for the sake of immediate gratification that have no long-term significance.**

The word here as it deals with strongholds, is

**3794 ὀχύρωμα ochurōma {okh-oo'-ro-mah}  
Meaning: 1) a castle, stronghold, fortress, fastness  
2) anything on which one relies 2a) of the arguments and reasonings by which a disputant**

**endeavors to fortify his opinion and defend it against his opponent.**

We have in our minds, programmed responses to certain things. I know as a pastor, there are program responses, and many of us, run up against these program responses, and here's one of them - we're not under the Law. That's a program response. We're under grace, that's a programmed response. Christ freed us from the Law. And pretty soon ...

Strongholds are dangerous because they cause us to operate in areas that are opposed to YeHoVaH to satisfy the will of the flesh or of our carnal nature. In 2 Corinthians 10:3-4, it says,

**“3. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through Elohim to the pulling down of strongholds;).”**

So, we've already identified that a stronghold is a fortified position. And oftentimes in the context that Paul is dealing with, these fortified positions are in our heads, our mind. These are programmed responses that we have to certain things, and many of us have program responses and we're going to look at some of those today.

This pulling down is interesting,

**2506 καθαίρεσις kathairesis {kath-ah'-ee-res-is}, Meaning: 1) a pulling down, destruction, demolition.**

It actually puts in mind the idea of some form of demolition. Now, I've got some slides here just to give



you an idea here in a moment of this demolition that takes place when it comes down to pulling down certain things. But the word here actually deals with destruction. There are some things that literally have to be destroyed; you can't just address them and allow them to linger, they have to literally be torn down. Demolished is the word; that's the idea here.

And then casting down imaginations and interestingly, casting down and pulling down is almost one in the same. But what are we pulling down? He says,

2 Corinthians 10:5 **“Casting down imaginations, ...”**

Where is the imagination in operation? In the mind. And so, when we look at the context, we're not talking about some spiritual thing. Paul is saying, listen, there are some behaviors, there are some thought patterns, there are some imaginations that just can't be adjusted - they have to be demolished. (

**2 Corinthians 10:5 “... and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of Elohim, and bringing into captivity every thought...”**

Now I'm going to tell you, this right here is a full-time job. Bringing into captivity every thought means that you now have to thoroughly think before you speak, but this is exactly what James says, that we have to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. You see, once you release the word, you can't take that word back. Once you say something, you can't go and take those words back.

Words hurt people. My parents used to say, boy, words don't hurt, sticks and stones will break your bones, but words can never hurt you. Many of you are in the state that you're in because of words, not sticks, and stones. Some of you have in your mind things that your dad has said, your mom said, other significant people in your life have said to you, that have stuck and have shaped who you are. Some of you are angry because of things that have been spoken over you in your childhood. He says,

**2 Corinthians 10:5 “Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of Elohim, and bringing into captivity (Not some of the thoughts) every thought...”**

Meaning, you literally have to think before you speak. And there's a lot of things you have to think about. We're going to talk about that. This word,

**2507. καθαιρέω; kathaireō {kath-ahee-reh'-o}, Meaning: 1) to take down 1a) without the notion of violence: to detach from the cross, one crucified 1b) with the use of force: to throw down, cast down 2) to pull down, (see, there's that word pull-down) demolish 2a) the subtle reasonings (of opponents) likened to fortresses, i.e. to refute, to destroy.**

And when you look at this **kathaireō**, this is in the Strong's Concordance. What I've been using, and you've seen some of these, I'm using a different source which is a Bible tool that I'm using in conjunction with the Strong's. When we dealt with Discipleship, what I wanted people to have is the basics, having the basic tools. But there are more tools beyond the basics that will take you a little bit deeper than just the basics of which Strong's does. The Strong's Concordance is a

basic tool, but the Strong's Concordance only goes so far into the meaning of words. And Strong says, concerning this word, really it just sums it up; to demolish without violence or with violence.

**(2507) (including its alternate); to lower (or with violence) demolish (literal or figurative): - cast (pull, put, take) down, destroy.**

**To pull down a stronghold one must first acknowledge a stronghold has been developed.** The reason why modern-day deliverance is only temporary is that it deals with the symptoms and not the root. Deliverance masks the root by addressing generational curses, inner healing, but never deals with the real root. And generational curses always put the blame on what? The father. Always put the blame on the father. And this is why oftentimes any of you who've gone through any kind of psychology or psychiatry or sociology, you're going to find that it always seemed they want to focus ... there's a roundabout way to get to the father. Because that's where it really is, this is where it all stems from.

When the bottom line is that you can only blame your dad for so much, because the bottom line is, the Father is not holding your father responsible for your sin. As a matter of fact, the Children of Israel used to blame their fathers for that. And YeHoVaH says, let's get rid of this proverb. No longer will a child say or it be said in the land that because of what the father has done, the children's teeth are cut on edge. Every man is going to be responsible for their own sin. **Your action is your responsibility, it's not your father's fault, it's not your mother's fault, it's your fault.**

Now, you may say,

“Well, I'm the way I am because of my parents.”

That's fine and dandy because there's some truth to that. But your actions are your actions. And you hear people talking about,

“Well, you know the devil made me do it.” Or,

“See what you made me do.”

“See what you made me say.”

We are quick to blame our actions on someone else. We can focus on deliverance, or we can focus on why deliverance is needed. **Deliverance is needed because of strongholds. That's the bottom line.**

Bondage, captivity, or slavery. Strongholds, bondage, captivity, and slavery are a result of rebellion against YeHoVaH.

Last week I said to you all to read Deuteronomy 28, how many of you read it? So, I see some hands didn't go up. Some of you didn't hear it. But when you look at Deuteronomy 28, literally verses 15 through 68, deal with the result of rebellion against what? Rebellion against YeHoVaH's Commandments, which is rebellion against YeHoVaH.

We can blame someone for our actions. There are plenty of people to point the finger at and we can certainly say,

“Well, you're the reason why I did what I did”.

But when we're done pointing the finger, guess what? It is still us, who have done the wrong. You're the one who said what you said. You're the one who did what you did. Some people have done so much wrong they're haunted by all the wrong they've done. They go to bed at night and have nightmares, and bad dreams. Suicide is not the way out, repentance is. Some people, they can't even get beyond the stuff they've done to where they ... And I know, I was there. When it came down to the fact after my wife was gone, I'm sitting there looking at what I did, my behavior.

And I'm going to tell you, those of you who've ever been separated, you know, there are some common mistakes that I had to learn. You know, I had to learn. Now, here it is, I'm a grown man. Let me say that with emphasis - I'm a grown man! And I have to learn all over again. It's a tough place to be.

It's extremely tough when you have been with a woman, you've been married, you got children, and she no longer wants to be with you. And now you trying to get back with her as if you've never been with her in the first place. Now can you imagine trying to get with your wife who doesn't want to be with you, and you've slept with her? You know her scars, you know everything about her physical being, and yet you're not allowed to enter into that domain because of your actions. And now here it is, as a man trying to get back in when I've been put out. Now, if you've never been in, you are automatically cautious. But if you've ever been in and now, you're out and it looked like you about to get back in, the cautions are no longer there.

You see when a man is trying to get with a woman, there are certain things he doesn't let her see about him. And there are women who they, it's like you

can't see me without my makeup. Can't see me without my hairpiece on. Certain things you just can't see, you don't know. Do you understand what I'm saying? Am I talking to strangers up in here?

Yeah, there are certain things, you just don't know about that person, you really don't. You don't know the sounds they make; you don't know the breathing disabilities they have, the sounds that they make when they sleep. You don't know this stuff. But then after you have been married and you know all this stuff, and now you're on the outside and you allowed to go back on the inside, there is a familiarity that is unrestrained that makes you think you got the full run of the place when you've only been allowed to come across the threshold of the front door, so don't rush it. Because the moment you do something that reminds her of the old you, guess what? The door slams in your face again! I don't even know why I'm going down this road. But what it did for me is that it says,

“Arthur you need to proceed with caution; you need to move into this place like you have never been in this place before and if your wife allows you to touch her or to hold her hands, don't misread the sign. Because just as you've been put out before, you can find yourself on the outside looking in if you try to move this thing too quick.”

Does anybody in here, know what I'm talking about? Anyway, Father, dealt with that, He resolved that issue for me and now my wife and I were in good company most of the time. HalleluYah.

When you've messed up, and this is where I was, I'd messed up. I messed up so bad to where I didn't know how to correct what I'd done. And that's

where I was. Here it is, I'm on the outside looking in, I ran from the Almighty. I've destroyed everything that I've worked for and now, it's like I got to start all over. And it's tough trying to start all over.

The thought that some other man is going to be sleeping with your wife, the thought that some other man is going to be raising your children, the thought that you got to start over with another woman. You got to get to know all this stuff all over again. And I know, listen, I told you we are coming straight down the middle, it's going to get raw up in here. Handle it.

There comes a point when you messed up so bad. Anyone in here ever thought about suicide besides me? They put their hand up and took it down real quick. I'm going to tell you something, that's a familiar spirit. Because for some of us, we come to the conclusion that we messed up so bad the only way to fix it is to exit. And I'm not talking about exiting the relationship, I'm talking about exit life. **Suicide is not the answer, repentance is the answer.**

Some people want success so bad they walk on other people and destroy others or make others look bad to make themselves look good. Only when they get to the top, do they realize it's lonely at the top and they look around and see all the people they have affected to get where they are.

We must acknowledge our wrongs and then be ready to right the wrongs we've done. Sometimes we may have to make restitution. And this is where I want you to see. There's a fellow in the Book of Luke named Zacchaeus.

**Luke 19:1-9 “1. And Yeshua entered and passed through Jericho. 2. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. 3. And he sought to see Yeshua who he was; and could not for the press because he was little (He was a short man.) 4. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for He was to pass that way. (He projected the direction that the Messiah was coming, he ran up ahead and climbed up a tree, now this is a rich man.) 5. And when Yeshua came to the place, He looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at your house. 6. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. 7. And when they saw it, (When the people saw it.) they all murmured, saying, that he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. 8. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. 9. And Yeshua said unto him, this day is salvation come to this house...”**

Now, what caused Him to say that? Because of what Zacchaeus said. Zacchaeus is saying, listen, you know, I'm going to take ... because you can only have so much. I'm going to take half of what I have, and I'm going to give it to the poor. And if I have taken anything from any man, I'm going to return, I'm going to restore fourfold. That, Ladies, and Gentlemen is the confession of an action that is taken place inwardly that would cause someone to say I'm going to repent, and I'm going to restore – that's restitution.

**Luke 19:9-10 “9. ...This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son**



**of Abraham. 10. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

Now, in Jeremiah 1:10, as we deal with this issue of pulling down and casting down, the Prophet Jeremiah was given the mission, as Israel had been taken into captivity. Father raises up a Prophet. Now, the reason why Israel is taken into captivity is that they've abandoned the Commandments. Every time the Children of Israel abandoned the Commandments, Father would raise up a prophet, first of all, to warn them of what they're doing and if they don't repent of what they've done then He would take them into captivity, but He doesn't want them to be in captivity.

Every time the Children of Israel were sent into captivity they were always sent with a prophet. YeHoVaH is saying in the midst of captivity, listen, you can still repent; your actions have caused you to be here, but even in the midst of where you are, you can still repent. And if you repent, if the heart of the people repents, I'm going to hear your repentance, even if what you are in, you brought it on yourself. I'm not leaving you, I'm not forsaking you, I'm not abandoning you, because I'm putting in the midst of you someone who's going to speak on my behalf to you. Now hear ye the prophet.

What did the people do? They killed them. They didn't kill Jeremiah, they tried to. If you read concerning Jeremiah and Jeremiah's life, the people that came after Jeremiah was YeHoVaH 's people, the people that YeHoVaH sent Jeremiah to speak to. And what did he say? He says,

**Jeremiah 1:10 "See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root**

**out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.”**

In other words, when there is a mindset that is in operation in people, there has to be a demolishing of that mindset. It's not as simple as a change of mind because you can change your mind and change your mind. It's called backsliding. It's people.

I remember after I got out of drug rehabilitation center, I still had some telephone numbers. And whenever that urge hit me because I've got those numbers, guess what? You just go pick up a number, make a phone call, and you're right back where you were. Some people do this with relationships. They leave one relationship, go to another relationship, that relationship doesn't work out, guess what? They still got the phone numbers of the old relationship. You'll find people who are back in old relationships when the relationship that they're in doesn't work out. Why? Because people have a tendency to gravitate to what they know, even when that which they know is not good for them. Because the reason why they're not there is that they got tired of being in that situation, they wanted to get away from it, got into a new relationship, that didn't work out, so instead of moving forward, they go backward. It's backsliding.

Now, the only way to not go back is to not leave the breadcrumbs, to not leave the trail, to cut off the history, to cut off the past, to cut off the relationship, to throw away the phone numbers, to disconnect the communications.

This is one of the dangers of Facebook. Because Facebook, for many people, a lot of the past is finding them on Facebook. Hey, I got somebody,

“Hey, where you born in Birmingham, Alabama?”

They trying to find whatever Arthur Bailey. No, I don't even respond.

“Are you such and such?”

It's like I don't even know you. People trying to find old relationships or friendships or whatever the case may be, and next thing you know, a connection is made and pretty soon you got late-night creeping online. Some of y'all know who I'm talking about. All because you left the door open. All because you've not abandoned the past, all because you have not destroyed or demolished. I mean, how dare you carry your old girlfriends' picture in your wallet. How dare you have old boyfriend pictures in your little what-not case hidden under your bed somewhere or wherever you hide it. There are people who got their past in a little box, hid somewhere, and from time to time they go down memory lane. Do you hear what I'm saying? Putting stumbling blocks in their path.

But Jeremiah, after YeHoVaH took the Children of Israel into Babylon, into captivity, raised up the prophet, sent the prophet, says listen, now, here's your mission. Your mission is to go in among my people and you're going to have to root out some stuff. What is that? You're going to have to pull down some stuff. What is that?

See, Jeremiah wasn't a carpenter. He wasn't a construction worker. He was a prophet. The weapon that... his weapon of choice was his mouth. It was the Almighty putting in Jeremiah, fire, the Word, and telling

Jeremiah to speak to the people. He didn't go in with a hammer and jigsaws and construction crew. He went in with the word of YeHoVaH to pull down, pull down what? To throw down, to throw down what? To destroy it, to destroy what? Because what He is dealing with is a mindset.

You see, the people of Israel that were locked up in Egypt, came out of Egypt physically. You can leave a place physically, but if where you left is still in your mind, you never left. You are still there. You are still associated, connected to the past even when you come into a born-again or so-called born-again, relationship. Connected to the past, holding on to stuff in the past. Old relationships. He says I'm sending you to root out, to pull down, to destroy, to throw down so that you can do what? Build and plant.

Now, I want you to see Proverbs 29:18, please turn there with me, those of you who have a Bible. Proverbs 29:18, here's what it says,

**“Where there is no vision, the people perish. What is the next part? But happy is he who keeps the law”. That's 29:18; “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”**

That's typically, the only piece you hear in church. How many of you are familiar with that portion of Proverbs 29,

**“Where there is no vision, the people perish”? “Where there is no vision, the people perish. Happy is he who keeps the law”, that's the other part.**

Proverbs 29:18; **“Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint, but one who keeps the law is blessed.”** Now, that's the actual translation. King James says, **“Where there is no vision, the people perish; happy is he who keeps the law.”**

But the actual translation is that where there is no open revelation, where there is no prophetic word, where there is no word from the Almighty, the people cast off restraints. The only thing that holds you to the course is a word of Yah. If you don't have work, if you don't know the purpose, the plan, what it is you're supposed to be doing, there's nothing to keep you from doing, whatever it is you're doing.

The only thing that keeps a person of faith on the path of righteousness is if they know the purpose and the plan of the Almighty for their life; they know when the Father says, here's the path you're on, they're not supposed to be detouring here, they're not supposed to be going over here. This is the path you're on, you're not supposed to be hanging out with that kind of person, that person is not on your path. So, if you're hanging out with people who are not on the path that you are supposed to be on, you've detoured. How are you going to hang around heathens unless you're a heathen? Birds of a feather flock together. You want to know who you are, look at your friends. Look at who you spend your time with.

**Vision 2377 ׀רן chazown {khaw-zone'}**  
**Meaning: 1) vision 1a) vision (in ecstatic state) 1b) vision (in night) 1c) vision, oracle, prophecy (divine communication) 1d) vision.**

It's not somebody getting in a room talking about “Let's cast a vision for this ministry”. You can cast a

vision for this ministry, that's your ministry. Where does the vision come from? That's your vision. If He doesn't give you a vision, you'll create your own. Get a business plan, a strategic plan. You got your two-year plan, your three-year plan, your five-year plan, and now you measure your plan to see if you're on track. Did you run your plan by Him? Is that His plan for you? Because your plan will typically lead you away from His plan and you won't even know if you don't know what His plan is. So now you are fully engaged in making this happen. This is your vision.

Father's saying,

"Is that my vision for you?"

Because the only thing that He's obligated to backup is His Word. And if what you're doing is not in accordance and in alignment with His word, you can do all the witchcraft prayer ...

"God, you said if I delight myself in you..."

No, He says delight yourself in His Law.

"You said you would give me the desires of my heart."

Really, did He say that? The Father is very specific about what He says. Matter of fact, He's so specific about what He said, He put it in a Book. But make no mistake about it. Now, all these folks want to run around here quoting Scriptures outside the Book and making the Book say what it says or giving like

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Really?

You know there are two famous Scriptures, actually three, but two that comes to mind right now and that is this:

“Where there is no vision the people perish...”

And the church stops right there because they can't get with the,

“Happy is he who keeps the Law.”

And that word Law, by the way, is the Hebrew word for Torah. He says,

“Happy is he who keeps the Torah.”

That word “Happy” is the word “Blessed are” or “You are blessed when you keep the Torah.”

It's the same word, but in the Greek use, when Yeshua, in the Beatitudes says,

“Happy are they...”, “Blessed are they...”, “Blessed are the poor in spirit...”

Same word. “Blessed are they who keep the law,” you see.

And then the other one,

“My people perish...” or “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...”

Let's finish that,

“For thou have rejected...”

Or He says:

“My people perish for lack of knowledge and because they have rejected knowledge, they will be no priest to me.”

Hosea. Getting off course but that's alright, this is a good detour. Just want to make sure I got it right.

**Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be no priest to me: seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.”**

But all you hear is,

“My people perish for lack of knowledge.”

People want to go in and take a portion of a Scripture and throw it out there and leave the rest of the Scripture out as if you can do that. You're not quoting the Word, your quoting half the Word. That's a portion, that's a portion. Are you hearing what I'm saying? You can't take His word out of the context in which He gives it. And we know how He gave it. How? Because He has it in a Book.

But see, if you don't read the Book and all you hear is “Where there is no vision, people perish...”, you will not even know that that's only a part of a verse. If you didn't read the Word, you wouldn't know where it says “My people perish for lack of knowledge...” which was only a part of the verse.



Because people don't read the Bible, they get parts of the verse and build a doctrine. Now, you got a stronghold. Now, somebody's got to come in and demolish that, saying

“No, no, no, that's only a piece. Your house is half-built. Your house is not even built on the right foundation because you got half a scripture, which equates to half a house.”

And yet you think you got a whole house, but let's keep reading.

**Perish 06544 פָּרַע para' {paw-rah'}; Meaning: 1) to lead, act as leader 2) to let go, let loose, ignore, let alone 2a) (Qal) 2a1) to let go, let loose 2a2) to let alone, avoid, neglect 2a3) to loosen. The Strong's version: {6544} - para', paw-rah'; a primitive root; to loosen; by implication, to expose, dismiss; figuratively, absolve, begin: — avenge, avoid, bare, go back, let, (make) naked, set nought, perish.**

The actual translation again is where there is no revelation, no open vision, no word from YeHoVaH, the people cast off restraints, the people perish. If you are doing your own thing, you're obviously not going in the same direction as the Almighty. And then He says,

“Happy is he who keepeth...”

That word keepeth,

**08104 שָׁמַר shamar {shaw-mar'} Meaning: 1) to keep, guard, observe, give heed 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to keep, have charge of 1a2) to keep, guard, keep watch and ward, protect.**

It's the same word as it relates to the Sabbath. You got people who guard the Sabbath but don't guard the Law. Like the gentleman who called me says

“Do y'all go out to dinner after the Sabbath day? Do you go to eat out at the restaurant after the Sabbath day?”

You know there are some people that as far as the Sabbath is concerned, they have a Christian mentality. You just go to church on Sunday. You go to do your little two-hour thing and the rest of the day is yours. See, in Sunday church you can go to church, and you've done your reasonable service.

The Sabbath is a **day**, He says to keep the day Holy. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. And then you got these folks who want to run around here talking about well, a day is only 12 hours. So, after the sun goes down or after 12 hours? And when does that 12-hours start? Which means on Friday night, it doesn't start because it doesn't start until the morning hour. I mean, there's a lot of stuff going on out there folks. Folks trying to break down and get around, it's not new.

“Keepeth the Torah.”

**law; 08451 תּוֹרָה towrah {to-law'}** Meaning: 1) law, direction, instruction 1a) instruction, direction (human or divine) 1a1) body of prophetic teaching 1a2) instruction in Messianic age 1a3) body of priestly direction or instruction.

So, First Corinthians, Chapter 3, let's go there. When He talks about keeping the Law, happy is he, this is actually what's going to bring you your deliverance

because **getting free is one thing, staying free is another.**

**1Corinthians 3:10 “According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon.”**

Apostles and Prophets are master builders, foundation layers, and responsible for constructing the true Temple and building the true Body of Messiah's Temple; not building on the foundations of Christianity or Judaism.

There're individuals who come into the Messianic, Hebrew roots and want to build on the foundation. They want to merge Christianity and Judaism together. And so now they've got a hybrid religion, called Messianic Judaism or Hebrew Roots - Messianic Judaism. The whole point of it is, is that it's a mixture of Christianity and Judaism because they're building on those foundations.

When Jeremiah was sent in, He says, you got to go in there. Now, I'm going to set you up above nations because you going to have to tear some stuff down. You got to pull some stuff down, you got to throw some stuff down.

I'm going to tell you something, Ladies and Gentlemen, when you talk about going in and demolishing mindsets, now you're stepping on people's toes, pet peeves, sacred cows. Yes, kick that cow over, brother. Kick all, kick it over, but don't mess with mine. Long as you're over there demolishing their issues, just don't come over here and get near mine.

Well, let's go there, Ephesians 2:19. You see the Prophet and the Apostles. Paul identified himself as a wise master builder. What was he, a construction worker? No. The goal is to build YeHoVaH's people. But in order to build YeHoVaH's people ...

All of YeHoVaH's people come to YeHoVaH with a mindset. Every last one of us has come to this place in our walk with foundations already established in us. Foundations in the world, foundations in Christianity, foundations in Judaism, foundations in some form of religion. And now we come into this and just want to build on top of those foundations. No, the foundation has to be destroyed. The foundation has to be torn down. The foundation has to be pulled down, thrown down, demolished. And part of that is the responsibility of the Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers, but the other part is you.

**Ephesians 2:19-21 “19. Now therefore you are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of YeHoVaH; 20. And are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Messiah Yeshua Himself being the chief cornerstone; 21. In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.”**

Now, look around you. We're in the building. But do you see a building? See, He's not talking about the physical structure here. He's talking about us. We are the building. Think about it, we talked about the Temple and people praying to the East toward the Temple, it's like, really? You're the temple. You're the temple - the Spirit of YeHoVaH dwells in you. And yes, we sing 'rain down on us', but we also know that His desire is to fill us. And when He fills us, He still desires

to dwell in the midst of us, because none of us have all of Him. Because if you did, you would be Him. None of us have all of YeHoVaH in us. We have His Spirit, but He who is Spirit also moves in the midst of those who are filled with His Spirit.

**Ephesians 2:22 “In whom you also are builded together for an habitation of YeHoVaH through the Spirit.”**

So, you are a stone. This is what Peter talks about. I'm dragging.

**So that means some things have to be torn down, some things have to be demolished, some things have to be destroyed in order to properly build.**

Now, I got some images here just so you can get an idea of a construction site. How things are imploded, demolished. These things are making way for the new. The old man is being destroyed, the grounds cleared so that the new man can be erected, built up.

**Taking thoughts captive means we must monitor and even confront our thoughts. Whatever a man thinks in his heart, so is he.** The word heart there, if you look at that verse, deals with whatever a man thinks in his mind. **We must govern our imagination. We must confront our past.**

Now, what I'm doing at this particular point is I'm telling you what you must do in order to deal with the strongholds in your life. The first thing you got to do is **recognize them**. And the way you recognize a stronghold is to **monitor your thoughts**. Because the

whole idea is to take your thoughts captive. How are you going to take your thoughts captive and you're not even aware of what you're thinking about? See, when your thoughts begin to go freely, and many of us, I'm going to tell you right now, many of us, me included, are guilty of just letting our minds go wherever our minds go. And you can't afford to do that, because you got to take every thought, everything that goes on up here, you better be aware of it. Cause if you're not aware of what is going on up here, up here will lead you and you won't lead you. You'll be governed by your feelings, governed by your emotions, governed by your thoughts. You'll be an emotional person operating on emotions. Oh, how do you feel? How you feel is dictated to you from here (your mind), you see. You got to take this captive. You got to take everything up here captive. You have to take control of your headquarters, you don't let your headquarters take you down the road, you take your head. Do you hear what I'm saying?

Now it sounds... listen, this is some simple stuff, but it is complicated because many of us allow our minds to go in places and just simply daydream. You can see people daydreaming. They just... Where'd you go? Oh, I was in Haiti, oh, I was in Tahiti; man, I need a vacation.

**We must not restrict certain areas from the Holy Spirit. When we say, I don't want to talk about that, are we saying I'm not ready to deal with that?**

“I don't want to talk about it.”

“Why don't you want to talk about it?”

“Why? I'm not ready to deal with it. There are not going to be any changes here today.”

So, you're wasting your time to talk about an area, but listen, that area that we need to talk about is destroying us. And if we don't deal with it, what's the end? You got people who are living in the same room, sleeping in the same bed but have very little, if anything, to do with each other. That's sad.

**We must filter our thoughts through the Word of YeHoVaH. We must take on the mind of the Messiah.** He's giving it to us, but we have to take it on. So, if you're always talking about the Word and folks around you don't want to hear the Word because you always seemed like every time you talk and open your mouth the Word's coming out.

“Man, I'm so tired of hearing you.”

Really? So, if we're going to take on the mind of Messiah, that means we must renew our minds. Isn't that what we were instructed to do? To be no longer conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. **How can you come into Messiah and stay the same?**

**We must meditate on the Word. We must think the thoughts of YeHoVaH.** How are you going to think the thoughts of YeHoVaH? By knowing the word of YeHoVaH. **We must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.** In other words, **we must think about what we are going to say before we say it and anticipate the outcome of what we are about to say and the impact it is going to have on those who hear it.**

I'm sitting in a chair in California while David is playing, leading people in worship, having a conversation with the Almighty and with you all, and y'all were 3,000 some miles away, didn't even know that I was having a conversation with you all as Father is dealing with me to have a conversation with Him; knowing and anticipating the outcome of what that meant if I followed through on His Instructions. I knew when I went to him, some folks are not going to like that idea. I knew there were some folks who are going to come to me and say,

"You know what Brother Bailey; I don't think that's the word of God."

"Oh yeah, were you there? Were you there?"

"Well, I don't like that decision."

"Take it up with Him."

"No, I'm taking it up with you and I'm telling you, take it up with Him."

Because I am following what I believe what He said to do. And you have to understand, I was here before you got here. You didn't bring me here; you didn't lead me here. And I'm not trying to be arrogant, I'm not trying to be, you know, I'm just telling you like it is because I would rather face you any day than deal with Him.

I can easily deal with you being angry with me because what you're going to do, leave? That's it. You can leave, you can go and talk about me behind my back, talk about me to other people, but it's not going to change the course. And again, I'm not trying to be



arrogant. It's not pride, it's the fact that when YeHoVaH tells you to do something, you don't let people get in the way, because the bottom line: where are you going to be when He deals with you? Where are they going to be?

“Ooh, look at him, God is putting a whooping on that behind, I told him!”

Yeah, you are next. See, I'm going to tell you something, I've had lots of people want to give me instructions. They want to tell me what to do and you need to be mindful of this.

I was having a conversation with my dear sister, it's like, you know, you have a loved one pass and the one member in the family who's not going to put a dime on the funeral, wants to lead the way and talk about how elaborate the going home should be.

“Really, how much money are you going to put in?”

“Well, you know, I'm on a fixed income.”

Yeah, but you want to spend other people's money.”

You see, there are people who want to tell you what to do, but they're not willing to make the investment or the commitment you make. They come in, see something, want to change a little something you don't want to change, and even if you do change, the moment you change, because someone tells you to change, they want to tell you,

“You aren't like you were when I met you.”

“Really? Should have left me alone then.”

“Don't like you the way you are and even when I make you over, I don't like what I made.”

“And whose fault, is it? Yours.”

We have to think about the impact of what we're going to say, is going to have on people. That's why you can't just open your mouth and speak. You have to think, you have to be slow to speak. Have you ever said something to somebody in secret and it got back to you? Do you know how that makes you feel? Now you want to blame somebody else for telling. Really?

“Oh, I can't trust you; I told you something, you went off and told somebody.”

“Really? Who is it that you don't trust, because why did you tell me in the first place?”

“Well, I thought I could...”

You can't even trust yourself to keep a secret! Because if it was such a secret, you wouldn't have told anybody. Why are you telling somebody a secret? Because the moment you tell a secret it is no longer a secret. So, you want to hold someone else accountable and responsible for something you yourself couldn't do. Let's just call it what it is. Ooh, wee!

**We must always be aware that whatever we say will be repeated and we have no idea where our words will travel and who will hear what we have said. So, you better take ownership of your words.**

Because if it gets out, it's your fault. It wouldn't have got out if you hadn't let it out. Do you hear what I'm saying?

**Our battleground and warfare are in our head, our mind, our thoughts, what we meditate on, what we think about.**

**We must guard our hearts with all diligence. This is why we must forgive; we must not let people gossip in our ears, we must deal with offenses, we must follow Biblical protocol, we must walk in the Word and be led by the Spirit. Strongholds are deeply ingrained systems, thought patterns, ways of thinking, behavioral patterns, etc. In order for strongholds to be developed and go unnoticed, they must become a part of us so much so, we think that it is the way we are.**

**“That's just the way I am.”**

How many times have you said that? Do you know people who make statements like that?

**“Oh, that's just the way I am.”**

Even though you've been born again, are you still that way? It's amazing when you hear church folks, religious folks, spiritual folks, so-called spiritual folks, express a nasty attitude and then defend that attitude.

**“Well, that's just the way I am.”**

Really? Do you think that that is representing the Almighty? Can I get an Amein if that is? Got a lot of 'mmmm's'. No? Amein, y'all listening today, good!

**1. Whenever you say, that is just the way I am, you need to question that.** But if you say it and you know you don't hear yourself saying it, you're not going to question it. You just throw it out there.

"That's just the way I am."

Oh yeah, did you hear what you just said?

"That's just the way you are?"

Now, let's look at the way you are. Is that Messiah talking or is that you talking? Who's talking? Because typically, when people say, "that's just the way I am", that means, listen, get over it. That's who I am and that's not about to change anytime soon. Get over it. You don't like it - see you! Really?

**2. Whenever you say that is the way God made me,** that's just the way God made me. Really? Did He make you that way? Listen, Ladies and Gentlemen, every last one of us was born. You were not made from the dust of the ground. You are the result of sperm, just call it what it is. And you have been born, which means that you must be born again. Now, He can make you over. Give you a makeover.

**3. Whenever you say I'm just like my father or I'm just like my mother or that runs in my family, question that.** Because what you've allowed is some traits, some bad traits that are anti-Messiah to operate in your life, to hold you into a pattern where a stronghold has been developed. And instead of confronting that stronghold, you've owned it. **You must determine which family you will identify with and go to work to become like that family.** What family are you going to identify with, your earthly family

or your heavenly family? You see, you have two fathers. You don't have two mothers; you have one mother. But you've got two fathers. And Yeshua put it this way,

"Who is my mother? Who is my father or my brother? They that do the will of my Father who sent me."

**If you do not and are not willing to do the hard work to become like the family of YeHoVaH, you will simply evolve into becoming like your natural earthly biological family.** So, when you say, "that's just the way I am" or "I'm like my mother", "I'm like my father", you've taken that ownership and you've decided that you're going to be like your father or your mother here on Earth. Own it. See, we're eliminating the excuses.

**When you're born again, you are transformed from darkness to light, now you must come into the light and become the light for you are the light of the world! Therefore, act like you are the Light of the World.** Now I don't do this normally, but I'm going to do it now. Just look at the person next to you and say,

"You know what, I'm the light of the world."

That's what you are, own it. Really, take ownership of what He has called you to be. Because if you won't take ownership of what He has called you to be, you'll become like you are. It's just that simple. To be like you are requires nothing. Absolutely nothing. Just keep doing what you're doing. But if you want to become like He wants you to be, you got some work to do and the first thing you got to do is confront

yourself. **You have to deal with yourself.** And before you can deal with your wife or your husband or your sons and daughters or your moms and dads, you have to deal with yourself. Because many of us want to change everything around us in order for the change in us to take hold.

**You have to change yourself and be the change that has taken place, even if nothing or no one around you changes.** And you can't put a time limit on it because the Father will test you. See, you can say I'm going to do this, but He knows you. He knows that you're going to give this thing three months, and if she doesn't change, or if he doesn't change, at least we can say we tried. It's not like kicking the habit, folks. It's not like quitting smoking. The only person you have the authority to change is you. That's it.

**When you know how you as a child of God are supposed to act, you now must monitor your actions to see if you are continuing to conform to this world or if you are being transformed by the renewing of your mind.** When you look at your behavior, when you look at how you deal with people, when you look at how you treat people, when you look at your thoughts, when you take captive your thoughts, when you monitor your thoughts, when you see your emotions and how you respond to certain things and you question, why are you responding that way? Now you're confronting yourself. You're assessing yourself. You are now judging yourself. And I'll tell you, I'll be the first one to tell you, Ladies, and Gentlemen, this is not easy what I'm telling you. Because there's constant monitoring. Several months ago, I began to make a declaration: **This is the day YeHoVaH has made, I shall rejoice and be glad in it.** When I started making that declaration every day, whenever gladness begin

to wane, the Spirit in me reminded me of the words that I spoke,

“Are you glad now?”

They just blew at you and gave you a finger,

“You still glad?”

You got home and you didn't smell dinner,

“Still glad?”

You know, I got to the point now, if I don't smell dinner I know how to cook, I do. I know, man, I'm telling you, I'm a warm-upper king. I can take leftovers and do miracles. I create stuff. Children walk around, looking at what daddy created. Do you hear me?

So, the bottom line is that you have to take your emotions and your feelings captive. Do you understand what I'm saying, Ladies and Gentlemen? Whatever people do, you have a choice on how you respond unless you forfeit that choice and let someone else's action control your emotions. The moment you do that, you've given the power to that person. And Father doesn't like it because he's supposed to be in charge, now you've given somebody else charge. You've given charge to someone else to determine your attitude, your actions, your emotions, control you and cause you to act ugly, unbecoming a son or daughter of YeHoVaH. You got to take ownership of that and stop blaming other people for your actions, attitudes, and behaviors.

**You, now by the born-again experience, the word of YeHoVaH, with the power of the Holy Spirit**

**have been given control of your new man that you might present yourself as a living sacrifice.**

As David was singing that song and I'm thinking about Romans Chapter 12, the Bible tells us that we are to be a Living Sacrifice. That means that you have to get up on the Altar on your own. That means that you have to put yourself to death. And what's interesting, if you break down the words there, that you now become a Living Sacrifice presenting yourself to Him, that's your reasonable act of worship.

It literally... what Paul is really comparing, you as a Living Sacrifice and putting yourself on the Altar, he's comparing you to what the Levites did with the sacrifices that were put on the Altar. Except you're not an animal, you're not a bull, you're not a ram, you're not a goat. You have to cut your own throat. Now that's a harrowing image. You have to put yourself to death and then after you put yourself to death, well actually you got to get on the Altar and then do it because I don't see how you would get up there if you put... anyway, just my mind.

**You will become a workman who need not be ashamed and be able to rightly divide the word of truth.** You are now a new creation. When you monitor your thoughts, when you put yourself on the Altar, when you begin to take charge and take control and take ownership of your actions, your behavior, you become that new creation.

**You will guard your heart.** This is what you'll do. **You will guard your tongue.** You really will. You'll be very careful. You don't say what comes to your mind. I mean, if you got a tendency to just go off on people, cuss people out, scream, yell, shout; all



because they did something you don't like. What you need to do is step out of yourself and look at you and see. Wow, that's really Messiah-like, isn't it? I wish, you know, you could just take a picture. Just roll the camera; there she goes, there he goes. Just roll the cameras and let's playback once they get in the Spirit. See how you act when you aren't in the Spirit? You in the spirit; it's just not His Spirit. See, it's at that time that you're becoming like that other dad.

This is what Yeshua accused the religious leaders of. He said,

"I know your daddy; your daddy is the devil. See, you're acting just like him. That's who you're acting like."

That's what He was saying to the religious leaders.

"He was a liar from the beginning. You claim to be Abraham's seed, but Abraham wouldn't have done what you did. Yeah, you Abraham's seed alright, but you're not acting like Abraham. You're acting like your father. You claim Abraham to be your father, but yeah, you came through Abraham. But Abraham didn't serve ha'satan. He wasn't Abraham's father."

**You will guard your hearts, you will guard your tongue, you'll bridle your tongue, you will monitor your thoughts.** Now, this is, this is the apex. This is where it all comes down because **if you don't monitor your thoughts, you won't monitor your actions.** Your thoughts will control you; your thoughts will drive you. You'll say what comes to your mind, you'll tell people how you feel. You'll even give them a piece of your mind. The next time you give somebody

a piece of mind, you better make sure it's the mind of the Messiah you giving them. Otherwise, you need to guard your tongue. See, how can you be cussing somebody out one minute and then be trying to minister to somebody the next? It doesn't work that way, Ladies and Gentlemen. **You will monitor your behavior.** Nobody has to monitor it for you. You'll monitor yourself. **You will correct yourself.**

**You will evaluate your actions in comparison to Messiah, not some other person.** See, you will always look good when you find someone else to compare you with because you're never going to compare yourself with someone you think is better. Because that means you're accepting the fact that you got work to do. We find someone who's just a few prongs down. So, we feel better about ourselves, when the fact of the matter is that we should always be monitoring ourselves and our actions in comparison to Messiah, period.

That means in conclusion, **Messiah Yeshua will be your model, Messiah Yeshua will be your mentor, Messiah Yeshua will be your master.** And that's who you're trying to please. Amein.

## Notes

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## **BIBLE COMMENTARIES**

### [Genesis Commentary: Volume 1 \(Hardcover\)](#)

Arthur Bailey explores the Book of Genesis in a verse-by-verse Commentary from the perspective of the Hebrew Roots of the Christian faith. Understanding the Book of Genesis is foundational to the understanding of the rest of the Bible. Arthur provides unique insights into the Word of YeHoVaH (God), the life of Yeshua (Jesus), and mankind's historical response to the Word. Volume 1 of the Book of Genesis starts with the creation and ends with the Curse of Canaan.

### [Malachi \(Hardcover\)](#)

Malachi was a contemporary of Nehemiah and he wrote to the Israelites who were allowed to return to Israel from the Babylonian captivity under the Decree of Cyrus. The Priesthood had become corrupt. The people became discouraged and rebelled against the Law of YeHoVaH. Malachi was written to encourage the people that YeHoVaH would return to them when they returned to Him and to warn the Priests and the people of the dangers or curses they faced if they did not return to YeHoVaH.

Malachi also announces the coming of John the Baptist and the coming of Messiah Yeshua.

### [Galatians \(Regular Print\) Commentary Complete 4 Volume Set](#)

The true Gospel of the kingdom is not only one of belief, but of right action and of obedience. The good news is that **religious doctrines and manmade traditions have absolutely nothing to do with salvation.** Understanding Paul's epistle to the Galatians is the first step toward right understanding of the narrow path that Believers are called to walk. The next step is yours to take. Are you ready?

### [Epistles Of 1st, 2nd, 3rd John And Jude \(Hardcover\)](#)

#### **EPISTLES OF JOHN**

The Gospel of John; 1st, 2nd and 3rd John; and Revelation are all attributed to the Apostle John, the son of Zebedee, who was one of Yeshua's inner circle.

#### **1st John - An Epistle of John**

John's focus is to validate Yeshua as The Messiah; to define and expose sin; to promote a righteous lifestyle; to warn against false teachings and falling away; and to embrace and demonstrate YeHoVaH's LOVE.

#### **2nd John - An Epistle of John**

John is writing this letter to a beloved Saint and her children; he addresses her as the elect lady. He warns her by telling her that if you hear a person speaking and they do not bring the teachings of Messiah Yeshua, do not receive them. John further states that if you greet them, receive them in your home, or bid them god speed, you become a partaker in their evil deeds.

#### **3rd John - An Epistle of John**

John writes this letter to encourage Gaius to continue to help those whom he sent and to stand even though Diotrephes, a leader in the

congregation, wanted to have the preeminence, or to be first, and refused to accept those sent by John as missionaries.

## JUDE

Jude was **combating false teachings and false teachers** who appeared to be teaching a type of "once saved always saved" doctrine and that nothing you could do would cause you to lose your salvation. Thus, grace gave you a license to live however you chose to and nothing you did could change your salvation status.

## BOOKS IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

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Language	Link to Ebook	Link to Purchase
<b>Cebuano</b>		<u><a href="#">Dominggo Dili Mao Ang Adlaw Nga IGPAHULAY?</a></u>
<b>Dutch</b>		<u><a href="#">Zondag Is Niet De Sabbat</a></u>
<b>English</b>	<u><a href="#">Sunday is Not The Sabbath?</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Sunday is Not The Sabbath?</a></u>
<b>Romanian</b>	Coming Soon!	
<b>Russian</b>		<u><a href="#">Sunday is Not The Sabbath?</a></u>
<b>Shona</b>		<u><a href="#">Svondo Harisi Sabata?</a></u>
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Our 27-class Leadership Development Course is for Ministry and personal enrichment for all Believers regardless of your spiritual walk. As Believers in Messiah Yeshua, all are called to be leaders. In this comprehensive program, learn how and why we must step up and become the leaders that YeHoVaH is calling us to be and how to apply Biblical leadership to every area of our life? This program will richly bless every area of your life as a leader, and help you pinpoint and define your leadership style,

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## LAW AND COMMANDMENTS

[28 Blessings of Deuteronomy 28](#) — This teaching summarizes the 28 blessings of *Deuteronomy 28* and what the blessings look like today. Learn how the blessings manifest and the importance of living a Torah-observant, Spirit-filled life.

### [Feast of Firstfruits](#)

In this exciting teaching you will learn what the Firstfruits offerings are, when they are to be presented, and why they are so important! The prayer that is recited during this vital offering assures the blessing of prosperity upon those who present their gifts unto YeHoVaH.

### [Preparing for the Spring Feasts of YeHoVaH](#)

What does the Bible say about the Early Feasts of YeHoVaH? What did Messiah Yeshua teach and



demonstrate and what did YeHoVaH command for all people for all time? Arthur Bailey uncovers the truth behind popular "sacred" traditions that have been handed down through the ages. Don't miss this vital introductory teaching that is a must-read for anyone who thinks they know the full story behind the "Lamb of God."

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### [The 3rd Year Tithe \(Paperback\)](#)

The 3rd Year Tithe is subtitled A Commandment of Caring and Compassion because YeHoVaH's plan has always been to provide for His people. In this teaching, we're going to look at how that relates to us today. A special prayer accompanies this tithe with powerful promises for those who obey.

### [The Biblical New Year](#)

Learn the truth about when the New Year begins, who commanded it, how the calendar of YeHoVaH differs from the modern calendar and the importance of keeping the appointed days of our Creator! This easy-to-read Book will help define and clarify the importance of time and seasons and help you understand why we need to keep these divine appointments in order to receive the blessings that are promised when we do!

### [The Feast of Pentecost](#)

#### [The Feast of Pentecost \(Hardcover\)](#)

What does the Biblical Feast of Pentecost represent? This Book answers questions for those desiring to comprehend the deeper meanings of Pentecost and the Biblical Early

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Arthur Bailey removes the confusion from Covenants that are as important today as they were long ago. What is the New Covenant? Who was the New Covenant made with? Is the New Testament the New Covenant? In this thought provoking, eye opening teaching, Arthur clears up long held misconceptions and elaborates on the definitions of covenant and testament.

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### [How To Overcome The Devil](#)

After the fall of man, the serpent in the garden, known as the dragon, the devil, and also known as the prince of this world, exercised dominion and power over fallen man. YeHoVaH's plan for the restoration of man was put into effect and revealed at the baptism of Yeshua. Yeshua gives all Spirit filled Believers, for ages to come, the method and example on how to personally exercise dominion and power over all the works of the devil in the individual Believer's life and take their rightful place in the Kingdom of Heaven.

### It's NOT Finished

For centuries Christian leaders have been declaring how “It is finished!” while promoting the “gospel of Jesus” and the “finished work of the cross.” Did Yeshua ever reveal what He meant when He cried, “It is finished!”? You may be surprised to learn what “it” is; that Yeshua is still ministering today; and that he also has ministry yet to come. Indeed “it” is far from finished.

### Maximizing Your Talents

This book will help you understand the parable taught by Yeshua after sharing with His Disciples about the Gospel of the Kingdom being preached to the whole world before the end comes. The parable is about three servants who were given specific talents. What distinguished the wise servant from the wicked servant in this parable was determined by what they did with the talents they had been given.

### Merry Christmas?

Where did Christmas originate? What does the Bible have to say about Christmas and its relationship to the birth of Christ? Is Christmas even in the Bible? Should Christ be in Christmas? Is Jesus the reason for the season? How should true Believers respond to Christmas? These questions and so many more will be answered in this timeless Christmas message.

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### Messianic 301: Perfecting Your Faith - Maturing in Messiah

Today there is as much confusion about being Messianic as there is on certain issues across denominational Christianity. This is the third installment of this phenomenal series which deals with perfecting the faith that we have been given. The series provides essential tools for maturing your faith in Messiah Yeshua.

### Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Some suggest that the gifts of the Spirit have ceased operation and that the Law is done away with. Among those who accept and teach that the Spiritual Gifts of the Bible are still operational today, many have abused and misused these gifts in their assembly similar to the days of Corinth to whom Paul wrote to correct. This Book removes the mystery over manifesting spiritual gifts and it empowers Believers to identify and exercise their spiritual gifts.

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Some offences are carried over a lifetime and others tear apart relationships.

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### [Pulling Down Strongholds Hardcover](#)

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Did you know that today's "Christian" gospel is not the Gospel of the Biblical Messiah's day? Over time, at the hands of men, the Gospel of the Kingdom (which is about repentance, obedience to the Commandments and acceptance of the Savior's sacrifice) has evolved into a gospel that is barely recognizable to Messiah, His Apostles or to true Believers of the faith once delivered to the Saints. Follow The Evolution of the American Gospel along a remarkable trail across languages, cultures, and centuries to reveal the true message of Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) and the path to salvation that is very different and far more powerful than what we have been taught to "believe."

### [The Fruit Of The Spirit \(Paperback\)](#)

Arthur Bailey does a verse by verse study of this passage from Paul's letter to the Galatians. The main tenets of this study is that God, who is Spirit, gave man the Law to govern his natural, flesh, carnal nature and God gave man His Spirit to lead man by His Spirit. As people of the Kingdom, we must be led by the Holy Spirit. The person who is led by the Spirit of God/Elohim will produce the fruit of the Spirit, do the works of the Spirit, and operate in the gifts of the Spirit. You will know the man by his fruit.

### [The Lord's Supper, The Last Supper, Communion \(Hardcover\)](#)

Where did the model of a cup of juice and wafer come from? Did the Disciples/Apostles celebrate communion as we know it? The Lord's Supper, the Last Supper, and Communion as we know it today was adopted by the Protestant church and inherited from the Catholic Church during the "Great Reformation". What is the proper way to celebrate Yeshua's Last Supper with His Disciples as He instructed?

### [Trumpets, Traditions and the Babylonian Effect \(Hardcover\)](#)

During the Babylonian captivity, the Jews were influenced by Babylonian worship just as when they were in Egypt they adopted the worship of the Egyptians. Babylon especially influenced the Jews so much so that the most religious document in Jewish life is titled the "Babylonian Talmud". In this teaching, Arthur points out the man-made traditions and the various effects Babylon had on modern day Judaism and the importance of exalting the Word of YeHoVaH over the traditions of men.

### [Understanding Grace \(Hardcover\)](#)

Did you know that Yeshua never mentions the word Grace in the gospels or in the prophetic book of Revelation? The way the term grace has been used by those in Christian circles has given grace a bad name amongst Messianic and Hebrew Roots believers. Many Christians have used the doctrine of grace as a license to sin. However, when grace is used in the Biblical context it is truly a beautiful gift from YeHoVaH.

### [What About Grace?](#)

Believers in Messiah misunderstand grace, salvation, and the Law. Messiah did not do away with the Law when he was crucified. Learn why we must keep the Law for the hope of salvation and the power of the Holy Spirit who still fills Believers. Absolutely relevant and must-read teaching for people of any faith!

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